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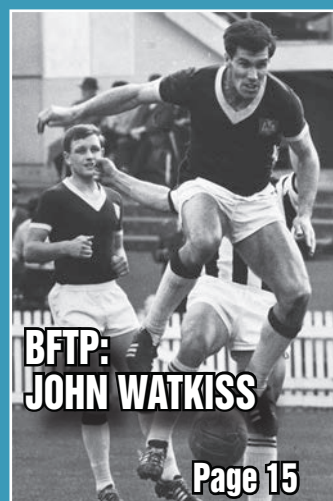
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W e e k l y

Vol. 7 No. 04 Monday 7th March 2011

THE LINE-UP



HAL GRAND FINAL SHOWDOWN

MARINERS V ROAR



HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE 2011 GRAND FINAL
Brisbane Roar v Central Coast Mariners
Sunday 13 March 2011

Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane Kick Off 4pm (QLD time) 5pm (AEDT)

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CC MARINERS



1

GOLD COAST UNITED



0

Central Coast Mariners 1
(Adam KWASNIK 75')
Gold Coast United 0
Hyundai A-League 2011
Preliminary Final
Saturday, 5 March 2011
Bluetongue Stadium, Gosford
Referee: Strebre Delovski
Assistant referees: Paul Cetrangolo and
Ashley Beecham
Fourth official: Gerard Parsons
Crowd: 7,539

Central Coast Mariners: 20. Mathew RYAN (gk), 2. Daniel McBREEN (19. Matt SIMON 69'), 3. Joshua ROSE, 6. Patrick ZWAANSWIJK (7. John HUTCHINSON 86'), 8. Rostyn GRIF-FITHS, 10. Patricio PEREZ (22. Mustafa AMINI 66'), 11. Oliver BOZANIC, 14. Michael MCGLINCHHEY, 16. Trent SAINSBURY, 18. Alex WILKINSON (c), 23. Adam KWASNIK

Substitutes not used: 24. Bernie IBINI ISEI, 30. Paul HENDERSON (gk)
Yellow cards: John HUTCHINSON 88'
Red cards: Nil

Gold Coast United: 1. Glen MOSS [gk], 2. Steve PANTELIDIS (24. John CURTIS 79'), 3. Michael THWAITE (c), 6. Dino DJULBIC, 7. Zenon CARAVELLA, 8. ANDERSON, 9. Shane SMELTZ, 11. Bruce DJITE, 13. Bas VAN DEN BRINK (14. Joel PORTER 69'), 15. Tahj MINNIECON (22. Adama TRAORE 78'), 33. Peter PERCHTOLD

Substitutes not used: 16. Kristian REES, 20. Scott HIGGINS [gk]
Yellow cards: Nil
Red cards: Nil



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By Adrian Deans

THIS is the worst game to lose.

The preliminary final, with its double reward of a place in both the Grand Final and the Asian Champions League, is literally Heaven or Hell.

But Hell would be harder for the Mariners. Having finished well above third place in the regular season, and then gone so close to beating Brisbane into the Decider, the Mariners would have felt that a place in the GF was theirs by right, and to lose it would be devastating.

For the Gold Coast, however, they'd made it to this match in good form and had every hope of upsetting a team that might still be agonising over its last two results.

The other pre-match talking points were the absences – Pedj Bojic has been one of the Mariners' best recently and his suspension would hurt, as would Matt Simon's foot injury (although he had recovered sufficiently to fill a spot on the bench). Of course, the Gold Coast were still missing the irreplaceable Jason Culina, but seem to have recovered well via Zenon Caravella and Tahj Minniecon.

Once the game got underway, the Mariners immediately started demonstrating the reason for their lofty finish – their passing game is second to none – at least the equal of Brisbane – and on the two minute mark a superb passing movement down the left saw Bozanic release Kwasnik, whose low hard cross should found McBreen who was somehow wrong-footed as the ball flashed past.

It was a typical Mariners move – the Rose/Bozanic double act has been a rich source of goals and chances for the Central Coast in Season Six. And the Mariners desperately needed an early goal to settle their nerves – instead they were subjected to an arm wrestle, in which goals were going to be priceless.

And it was the Gold Coast who started to manoeuvre for the better position, with Caravella pulling the strings, resulting in a chance to Bruce Djite down the inside right channel in the 12th minute. Matt Ryan made his first important stop of the night, saving with his feet one-on-one.

It was about the 20 minute mark when Patricio Perez started to ease himself into the game. From about that point, everything went through him as the Mariners went forward – mostly having the better of the arm wrestle – until a run and cross by McGlinchey set up Perez for a snap shot which whistled just wide.

Moments later Trent Sainsbury missed the Mariners' best chance of the first half when he arrived late for Bozanic's pin-point cross to the far post but took his eye off



Patrick Zwaanswijk's effort hits the bar as the Mariners pile on the pressure. INSET: Fans at Bluetongue will hope it's third time lucky for the Mariners in a Grand Final. Photos: KAREN DOUGLAS

the ball at the crucial moment. As usual, the Mariners were making chances but were not putting them away.

After half time, the arm wrestle continued with neither team willing to commit itself too far forward. Djite and Minniecon were rarely troubling the home side and Smeltz was not seeing much of the ball. Caravella plotted and schemed but the Mariners always looked the side more likely to score but they seem to need ten chances for every goal. Ollie Bozanic tested Moss in the 54th minute but with time ticking away, the first goal was increasingly likely to be decisive.

Disaster almost befell the Mariners shortly afterwards when Djite nipped in behind and beat Ryan to the ball. Ryan had at least forced him wide, and as Djite adjusted, Ryan was able to dive at his feet and win the ball back. It was a superb intervention requiring perfect timing – the merest miscalculation would have meant a penalty, and possibly a red card. It spoke volumes about the growing confidence of the young keeper.

A different form of disaster did befall the Mariners in the 65th minute when Perez tweaked a hamstring and was replaced by Mustafa Amini.

In the 68th minute, Patrick Zwaanswijk rattled a header against the crossbar form Bozanic's corner, but then the decisive moment came in the 75th minute when Adam Kwasnik leapt onto the scraps of a McGlinchey shot



to fire under Matt Simon's feet and into the net.

Joyous scenes followed, but incredibly, the Mariners immediately relaxed and allowed the Gold Coast to come at them for a fifteen minute white knuckle ride. Amini should have made it two after being teed up by Matt Simon but the other defining moment of the match came in the 78th minute when Matt Ryan made a superb double save from Joel Porter and then Adama Traore.

When the final whistle came, relief and rapture swept the stadium. The Mariners had deserved the win both on the balance of play and chances and on the fact of their superb performance over the season proper.

It will be the Grand Final the FFA and the neutrals would have hoped for – a packed Suncorp Stadium featuring the two best teams

all year.

The Mariners were unlucky not to get a win out of any of their last three games against the Roar (a loss and two draws). With just a teensy difference in the balance of luck, they might have won all three and I'm predicting an absolute classic next week.

Into their third Grand Final, the Mariners are well overdue for a win against the Roar.

That would be heavenly.

3 points – Matt Ryan
2 points – Zenon Caravella
1 point – Oliver Bozanic

Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores. www.mrcleansheets.com

SHORT PASSES

REGURGITATOR TO PLAY AT GRAND FINAL

Iconic Brisbane band Regurgitator will open the Hyundai A-League 2011 Grand Final with a 15-minute, four song set prior to the kick-off. Born and raised in Brisbane, Regurgitator embody an attitude and talent that has seen them produce a string of classic hits including Kong Foo Sing, Black Bugs, Polyester Girl and Fat Cop and release six full-lengths albums from 1996-2007. Regurgitator released their most commercially successful album, Unit, in 1997, the last year a Brisbane team (Brisbane Strikers) hosted a football national league Grand Final, also at Suncorp Stadium. Regurgitator will take to the stage at around 3.30pm.

JETS RE-SIGN WHEELHOUSE

Newcastle Jets are pleased to announce the re-signing of Jobe Wheelhouse for the next 2 seasons.

SPOTS STILL UP FOR GRABS SAYS ANGE

Brisbane have the smallest squad of any of the teams participating in the Hyundai A-League, with just 20 players on the books, but few could argue that coach Ange Postecoglou's quality over quantity approach hadn't worked wonders for the Roar this season. "There is always competition and we haven't made a decision on the team yet," he said. "We've proven quite consistently this year and even in the last game, it's not just a matter of who starts but of who comes off the bench that makes a big difference. "We've been better at that than all other clubs and the players know that so from our point of view, we just want to make sure everyone is absolutely cherry ripe for the Grand Final, physically and mentally. "So whether they play 90 minutes, half an hour or two minutes, they contribute." Postecoglou had no doubts that the final 16 players chosen would be more than capable of doing the job on Grand Final day, citing the chemistry between the squad as more significant than any player's individual talent – a belief the Brisbane boss has carried throughout the season.

APOLOGY

GW would like to take this opportunity to apologise for the publication of a caption that appeared with an image of outgoing FFV President, Tony Dunkerley in last week's issue. It was in no way intended to offend or be perceived as an attack on Mr. Dunkerley's character, nor was it insinuating a direct comparison between Mr Dunkerley and Libya's Colonel Gaddafi. What might have seemed humorous at the time may not necessarily be the case in hindsight. Ed.



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By Daniel Iaconis

THE worst kept secret in Australian Football is out; the North Queensland Fury have officially been axed from the country's top domestic competition after only two years in the Hyundai A-League.

Unable to meet the monetary demands put forward by the FFA and with an estimated \$2 million shortfall hanging over their heads, the Fury became the second club to fold in the six years the A-League has been in existence.

The news was delivered yesterday by FFA CEO Ben Buckley and head of the A-League Lyall Gorman who met with North Queensland CEO Rabieh Krayem in Townsville, and while the FFA's decision to axe the Fury will likely evoke widespread condemnation from the majority of football people in this country, it was a decision that had to be made for the prosperity of the game in Australia.

The failed expansion experiment further highlights the incompetence of Ben Buckley as a CEO and the FFA as a governing body, it's puzzling to think that they firstly granting North Queensland the license to join the A-League without properly forecasting whether it was a truly viable avenue, and secondly they decided to axe the Fury after just two years while they wasted \$6 million trying to prop it up.

That's a huge mismanagement of funds for a football federation that is haemorrhaging money, with most foundation clubs struggling to get out of the red. It is an utter embarrassment for a sport in this country that is trying to maintain its foothold as being the number two football code in



all Australian states.

That's money that could have been better allocated to grassroots football in regional areas such as North Queensland, or better yet it could have gone to the other 10 A-League clubs to put towards increasing the salary cap.

But let's not forget that this is the same administration that blew an estimated \$46 million, most of it tax-payers money, on an embarrassing World Cup bid which only managed to gain a single vote in Switzerland last year.

There is little doubt that cynics will see the axing of the Fury as little more than the FFA cutting their losses after the world cup bid fiasco, with the governing body no longer needing to try and impress FIFA by having

a team in such a remote part of Australia.

While there is no doubt that the financial security of hosting the world cup would have helped offset the North Queensland Fury's monetary woes, at the end of the day Ben Buckley and his men saw that they couldn't afford to just throw money at the Fury without getting a profitable return.

Let's not forget that the North Queensland region was hit hard by cyclones and flooding recently, the results of which have cost the Queensland economy billions of dollars and so it would seem unlikely and unfair to expect that the region would be able to sustain an A-League club in the short-term whilst it tries to rebuild itself.

We can only hope that Buckley

and his pals at FFA have learnt their lesson. Their over zealous approach to expansion in this country has cost the game a considerable amount of credibility, both domestically and internationally.

For a league 6 years old, and still in its infancy, expansion should have been the last thing on the agenda. Perhaps Buckley and co. were to gung-ho to follow the examples set by the MLS or the J-League, where new franchises have been awarded in the past with great affects on the league.

But Buckley was missing two major points; firstly the population of Japan and the United States is significantly greater than Australia's and our urban areas are not nearly as densely populated as theirs, and secondly the

USA and Japan have had hosted the World Cup and so football in these countries has prospered under the legacy in which hosting a World Cup brings.

Though expansion has the ability to cause the league to grow considerably it also can have a rather detrimental effect. For example through expansion, the FFA dilutes whatever limited amount of quality footballers we have in this country and so the end result is a team who in two years only manages to win 12 games out of the 57 in which they play in.

There is no question that football has a place in North Queensland, but to what capacity can the far north actually accommodate an A-League club? The answer is none, and the past two years have been proof.

Perhaps it would have been more practical to set up a state team playing out of Townsville in the Queensland league before wasting limited resources on a failed A-League club. A state league would have given the FFA the ability to establish a community based team in a smaller league without the financial risk posed by playing in a professional league.

But when has the FFA ever been practical in its decision making? So who suffers more from this? Is it the football people of Townsville and Northern Queensland who were given an A-League franchise only to have it taken away? Is it the administrators like Rabieh Krayem who worked tirelessly to try and appease the FFA even though the Fury's fate was sealed long before today?

The answer is football. Football suffers. A code that has spent the past 50 years trying to win the respect of the Australian public and to become a mainstream sport in this country is suddenly reduced to a bumbling mess. In a country where mediocrity has long been acceptable in other sporting codes, it cannot be the same for football. What footballer will want to come to Australia and play in a league that supports mediocrity?

The FFA and Ben Buckley need to realise that expansion is not the most important thing for football in Australia at the moment. Let's bring the standard of the league, let's improve the stadiums in which the current clubs play in, let's create a league capable of competing with the best in Asia.

Football people in this country have worked long and hard to get the code to the standard that is it today, let's not throw it away chasing waterfalls.

Hell hath no Fury...and neither doth the A-League

By Adrian Deans

STOP all the clocks, cut off the telephone, Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,

Silence the pianos and with muffled drum Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.

WH Auden's amazing Funeral Blues was immortalised to popular audiences in the film Four Weddings and A Funeral. As a heartfelt lamentation from the depth of the soul, it totally sat me on my arse (probably a wise precaution around WH Auden), and I feel exactly the same after the untimely demise of the North Queensland Fury.

Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead Scribbling on the sky the message Fury is Dead. Put crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves, Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.

In fact, I'm a Mariners supporter (living at Avoca Beach on the Central Coast), but more than anything else, I'm a fan of the league. I want all clubs to do well in order for the league to

grow and I'm absolutely devastated at the death of the Fury. A death which could have been avoided, but the FFA allowed life support to be switched off – leaving many to ponder why.

Fury was my North, my South, my East and West, My working week and my Sunday rest, My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song; I thought that love would last forever: I was wrong.

The messages coming out of NQ are a tad mixed, it must be said. We're hearing a lot about the FFA moving the funding goalposts, and further sinister mutterings about even deeper funding problems for the FFA generally, but let's face it - \$2 mill is bugger all in the wider context of C21 professional sport.

Mike Cockerill has been calling for Frank Lowy to open up his personal coffers (even wider than he already has) in order to help keep the A-League solvent – and while it's not exactly kosher to tell any individual how he ought to spend his money – Cockerill is dead right. Two million dollars is just another ivory backscratcher for Frank Lowy.



Even God couldn't stop the Fury from going ball's up. Photo: GEOFF JONES

He's done a hell of a lot for the game, but he's got to do more.

Because who else can?

At this embryonic stage of the A-League's evolution, comparisons are often drawn with the MLS and J-League; ie, started in a blaze of publicity – fell back for a few seasons and lost a few clubs – then gradually grew back from a galvanised base to enjoy (especially in Japan) mainstream success. And in the dark days of the MLS, the league was propped up financially by a couple of mega-wealthy philanthropists. Without them, the league may well have died.

The demise of the Fury is not Frank Lowy's fault, but he could have saved them. And the battle is not just the survival or otherwise of one club – the real battle is the battle of the codes for hearts, minds and elite athletes. North Queensland has long been an enclave of rugby league and represented a genuine chance to fight the good fight in a place where football had nothing to lose and much to gain.

The NRL in particular will be breathing a huge sigh of relief because the Fury were making progress in ways that aren't immediately apparent to the black-hearted bean counters who run the game. They may not have been getting huge numbers through the turnstiles just yet,

but the volume of kids getting about Townsville in Fury gear was noticeably rising and the NRL would have been feeling the first tremors of intergenerational sea-change. It was going to be a ten year job to build a genuine rusted on fan base for a professional A-League club in North Queensland, and the seeds of that fan base (ie, the kids) had been firmly sown.

I implore the FFA to do the right thing, not just by North Queensland, but by all football fans in Australia and do whatever it takes to get the Fury back into the A-League. Fury fans will be upset and it will take some work to win back their trust, but it is crucial that the Fury return. If nothing else, it is incomprehensible that a nation now playing in Asia would give up the opportunity to have a professional base, on home soil, where football is played regularly in the sort of conditions that Australian teams can expect to face in Asia.

The stars are not wanted now; put out every one, Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun, Pour away the ocean and sweep up the woods; For nothing now can ever come to any good.

The death of one (Australian) A-League club is a warning to all the others and is also a rallying point for the growing legions of disaffected fans who are passionately unhappy with some aspects of the FFA's performance.

It may not have made sense on a business plan, but the FFA should have moved heaven and earth to retain the Fury, if only to keep faith with the fans of other clubs and show that not all decisions were based on economic rationalism at the expense of the fans' experience of the game.

I've banged on at length previously about how if the FFA gave the fans what they really wanted that they would have a much stronger "product" to exploit. At this rate, the product is dwindling and in the end, Auden's poem (as edited by me) might not just be about the funeral of the Fury. It might be about the funeral of the A-League.

Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores. www.mrcleansheets.com

JOHN CLARK'S KISS OF DEATH Grand Final Edition



So this is it, after 7 months and over 150 games of enthralling football it all comes down to one match at Suncorp Stadium on Sunday afternoon. For Brisbane it will be there first appearance in an A-League Grand Final, while the Mariners have been here twice before, losing both matches by the narrowest of margins.

This will be the sixth time that these teams meet for the season, and while the Roar have won 3 and drawn the other 2 games, it is fair to say that the Mariners have closed the gap considerably since they were humiliated 5-1 by the Roar in late November. In there latest encounter the Mariners tempered an early Brisbane onslaught before striking twice before half time to silence the home crowd. After the break though, the Roar turned it on and showed why some pundits have claimed they are the best domestic side Australia has ever produced, with Broich smashing the ball home past Matt Ryan's near post and Henrique's exquisite last minute finish keeping that unbeaten run alive. Post game Mariners boss Graham Arnold claimed that the Central Coast had a 'psychological win' over the Roar, which has since been scoffed at by Roar players and officials.

The Mariners looked in great touch in their preliminary final win over the Gold Coast with Adam Kwasnik's smart finish enough to send a disappointing home crowd of just over 7500 people into raptures. A lot of the credit though must be given to young goalkeeper Matt Ryan who denied Bruce Djite in a one on one situation early in the match and followed up his great earlier work with a brilliant double save to deny Joel Porter and then Djite an equaliser with 10 minutes remaining.

This week the Mariners will regain defender Pedj Bojic who was controversially sent off the last time these sides met, which

will mean that youngster Trent Sainsbury will be relegated to the bench. Matt Simon also proved that he is fit Saturday night playing a little over 20 minutes, whether or not there is a starting position for him will be a decision that will give Graham Arnold a few sleepless nights. Another decision the Mariners manager might have to consider is whether to start young gun Mustafa Amini over Patricio Perez. The diminutive Argentine has been largely unimpressive in the finals series so far and Amini's contributions as well as his fitness levels might tip the scales in his favour. I expect that the Roar will keep the same starting eleven that got the job done a fortnight ago with attacking options aplenty on the bench including Henrique, Rocky Visconte and Massimo Murodcca.

When it comes down to it this game will be won and lost in the midfield. The Mariners will have to be on there game to cut down the time Brisbane are allowed on the ball, in particular the brilliant Thomas Broich and skipper Matt McKay, who if given time to distribute the ball will tear you to pieces. A lot of this responsibility will fall to Rostyn Griffiths who may be given a man marking job on Broich. On the other side of the fence either Perez or Amini will be given job of sitting in behind the strikers, while Erik Paartalu will make sure that they're not in for an easy evening.

We have seen in the past that Grand Finals can be fairly unpredictable, tight, scrappy affairs three of the previous five Grand Finals have only produced a solitary goal, I predict that this game will go against the trend and be an absolute epic that will be remembered for years to come, with the Brisbane Roar to continue their 14 month unbeaten home run and lift the 'toilet seat' in front of over 50,000 in Suncorp.

Prediction:
Brisbane Roar 4-2 Central Coast



HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE 2011
GRAND FINAL
Brisbane Roar
v Central Coast Mariners
Sunday 13 March 2011
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
Kick Off 4pm (QLD time)
5pm (AEDT)



Barbarouses



Simon



Henrique



McBreen



Solorzano



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Shocking Asia the Aussie Way

By David Manuca

MELBOURNE Victory kicked-off their Asian Champions League campaign in disastrous fashion as they were demolished 5-1 by Gamba Osaka in Japan last Tuesday night. Sydney FC however got off to a respectable start as they held-off Suwon Bluewings to secure a 0-0 draw in Sydney on Wednesday.

Melbourne found themselves 3-0 down in just the 11th minute thanks to some shocking defending. Kevin Muscat pulled a goal back for Melbourne from the penalty spot to make the scores 3-1 at the break but Gamba added another two in the second half to give Melbourne their biggest lost in the ACL to date.

Sydney FC held off a wasteful Suwon on Wednesday even after they finished the game with 10-men. Even with a numbers disadvantage Sydney created a number of opportunities but did well to hold Suwon and would be content with the point.

Victory manager Ernie Merrick was obviously not impressed with his sides performance but admitted his side still have a chance of getting out of the group stage.

“There were no positives,” Merrick told the Herald Sun. “We didn’t have a good player on the night. The other team was very good and outplayed us.

“You just can’t concede two goals within five minutes of starting.

“We’ve lost a point and lost the game badly, but we’re not out of the tournament.”

Gamba came out firing against the Victory and was up 1-0 just four minutes in. Melbourne failed to clear a corner and Takuya Takei was there at the back post and he drilled home an effort to give the Japanese side an early lead.

Just two minutes later Gamba were awarded a penalty that was given away by the returning Kevin Muscat. Lee Keun-Ho got right past Adrian Leijer and was too quick for Muscat who committed a foul in the area. New Gamba signing Adriano stepped up and converted the penalty even after the referee forced him to take it twice due to an infringement.

When Melbourne thought things couldn’t get any worse they conceded a third goal in just the 11th minute. Takashi Usami played a brilliant through ball to Adriano and he cut back for Lee to poke into an empty net. Ernie Merrick then brought on Billy Celeski in place of Diogo Ferreira as Melbourne started to settled a little.

After 22 minutes Archie Thompson was leashed on a very quick counter attack and he ran all the way to the area before he cut in front of Takumi Shimohira to win a penalty. Kevin Muscat stepped up and, as he almost always does, put the ball in the back of the net to pull a goal back for Melbourne.

The Victory come out of the break as a much organized side but they couldn’t stop Takahiro Futagawa and Takahiro Futagawa as they both scored goals to give Gamba a 5-1 win.

Melbourne will now face Jeju

United in two weeks at Etihad Stadium and Gamba will travel to China to take on Tianjin Teda. Sydney FC started their ACL campaign with a hard-fought scoreless draw against Suwon. Skipper Terry McFlynn was sent off just after half an hour after a stomp on Bluewings midfielder Lee Sang-Ho.

The visitors should have taken the lead inside 10 minutes when captain Choi Sung-Kuk was played behind one-on-one with Liam Reddy but his shot sailed way over the bar.

Terry McFlynn was giving his marching orders just a half hour into the game but Sydney never gave up and created numerous chances on goal.

Suwon had the better of the half as they had a number of chances to score; including Mato Neretljak who curled a free-kick around the wall with just five minutes on the clock but the ball only narrowly cleared the near-post of a diving Reddy.

They could have taken all three points late on as Stephen Keller’s header went inches wide and Mark Bridge’s strike was palmed away by the Suwon keeper. After playing with a man less for well over an hour Vitezslav Lavicka was proud of the way his team performed and content with the point.

“We showed great character tonight. We played most of the game with a man down and we never gave up and pushed hard. I am very proud of the players,” Sydney FC manager Vitezslav Lavicka said.



SFC’s Terry McFlynn can’t help but see red after deservedly being sent off.

Photo: GEOFF JONES

“We weren’t surprised by the physical play tonight. We have a high respect for Suwon. They have a very strong team. We stayed compact and we showed true fight and character. This makes me very happy.”

The other match in Group H saw Kashima Antlers of Japan and Shanghai Shenua from China also play out a nil-all draw. Sydney FC now face Kashima Antlers in Japan in two weeks time and Suwon take on Shanghai.

ACL Match Day One

Group E	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 GAMBA OSAKA (JPN)	1	1	0	0	5	1	4	3
2 TIANJIN TEDA (CHN)	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
3 JEJU UNITED (KOR)	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
4 MELB VICTORY (AU)	1	0	0	1	1	5	-4	0
JEJU UNITED (KOR) v TIANJIN TEDA (CHN)								0 – 1
GAMBA OSAKA (JPN) v MELB VICTORY (AUS)								5 – 1

Group H	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 KASHIMA ANTLERS (JPN)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
2 SHANGHAI SHENHUA (CHN)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
3 SUWON BLUEWINGS (KOR)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
4 SYDNEY FC (AUS)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
SHANGHAI SHENHUA (CHN) v KASHIMA ANTLERS (JPN)								0 – 0
SYDNEY FC (AUS) v SUWON BLUEWINGS (KOR)								0 – 0

All to play for as UCL enters business end

By Matthew Galea

CHAMPIONS League action is back underway this week with four return legs to be played in the round of sixteen.

With the round of sixteen split between two weeks, this week the focus will be on the return legs between, Schalke and Valencia, Tottenham Hotspur vs. AC Milan, Shakhtar Donetsk vs. Roma and, of course, Barcelona vs. Arsenal.

Raul’s record breaking strike in the 63rd minute of a pulsating tie in Spain has granted Schalke a slender advantage as Valencia travel to Schalke having to overcome Schalke’s away goal lead. Valencia will undoubtedly feel aggrieved to be heading into this crucial second leg with a deficit, albeit a small one, having enjoyed the lion’s share of possession, and creating far more chances.

As it were, Schalke could have snatched the win when Junmin Hao was denied by Vicente Guaita. Valencia suffered from severe profligacy in front of their home fans, however should they play with the same swagger and style, and improve their finishing; they have every chance of equaling and bettering Schalke’s away goal.

Tottenham Hotspur will welcome AC Milan to White Hart Lane on Thursday morning, and will look to equal a very impres-

sive performance against a lack-luster Milan side at the San Siro.

Gareth Bale could yet return, spelling even more trouble for a Milan defense which struggled to cope with Tottenham’s wide play two weeks ago. AC Milan will certainly need to show a lot more spirit, which might be lacking with the loss of Genaro Gatusso to suspension after he picked up a harsh yellow card in Milan, shortly followed by an ugly confrontation with Spurs’ assistant manager, Joe Jordan. Harry Redknapp will certainly be very comfortable heading into this game, but don’t expect Spurs to wait for Milan to make their move. Tottenham’s entertaining brand of attacking football has served them well thus far, and another victory over the seven time European champions would provide a massive boost to morale in the Tottenham on this fascinating European journey.

Having edged out Roma, and with three away goals to boot, Shakhtar Donetsk take a pretty solid advantage into the second leg in Ukraine. They will need to be wary however as should this game prove to be as open as the first leg, there is no reason why Roma could not overturn this deficit. With three away goals behind them, Roma will need to ensure they win by at least two goals to have any hope, which could lead Shakhtar to sit back



The juiciest tie of the round must be Barcelona and Arsenal.

and wait for Roma to make their move.

There is no doubt that the impetus is on Roma to take the game to Donetsk. Roma are a club in turmoil, finding themselves in sixth place, in real danger of failing to qualify for next season’s Champions League and with manager Claudio Ranieri resigning after a crushing 4-3 loss to Genoa last week.

The appointment of new manager and loyal servant to the club, Vincenzo Montella, saw an instant improvement as Roma managed a 1-0 at Bologna, where De Rossi inspired his side to a much needed win, a result not matched

last weekend when Roma could only muster a draw at home to lowly Parma. They will rely on De Rossi to provide a similar sort of fire for Roma as they look to salvage their European campaign from the jaws of defeat.

The tie of the week and the round no doubt, will see Arsenal travel to the Nou Camp as they look to secure a historic win over the Catalan giants. Barcelona enjoyed far more possession at the Emirates than their English counterparts, and were somewhat unlucky to lose the first leg 2-1, after Messi had a completely valid goal ruled out for off side.

The goal would have made the

score 2-0, and would surely have ended any hope for Arsenal. As it happened, the bit of fortune rallied Arsenal on and they took two of their only chances of the game to secure a big 2-1 win.

The concession of an away goal may ultimately prove costly, but it will keep Arsenal on their toes.

Arsene Wenger will know that he cannot afford to rest on his laurels and will seek out an away goal to kill off the Barcelona threat. That will leave Arsenal open to Barcelona’s advances, which should ensure another entertaining game between these two football purists.

Round of 16

1st leg results : 15-23 February

AC Milan	0-1 Tottenham Hotspur
Valencia CF	1-1 Schalke 04
AS Roma	2-3 Shakhtar Donetsk
Arsenal FC	2-1 Barcelona
København	0-2 Chelsea
Lyonnais	1-1 Real Madrid
Marseille	0-0 Manchester United
Inter Milano	0-1 Bayern München

2nd legs to be played
8-16 March

Tues 8 March
Shakhtar Donetsk v AS Roma
Donbass Arena

FC Barcelona v Arsenal
Camp Nou

Wed 9 March 2011
Tottenham Hotspur v AC Milan
White Hart Lane

Schalke 04 v Valencia CF
Arena AufSchalke

Tues 15 March 2011
Manchester United v Olympique de Marseille
Old Trafford

Bayern München v FC Inter Milan
Fußball Arena

Wed 16 March 2011
Chelsea FC v FC København
Stamford Bridge

Real Madrid v Olympique Lyonnais
Estadio Santiago Bernabéu

Manny's Mission Accomplished

By Robert Di Fabio

GOAL Weekly had the pleasure of catching up with Manny Muscat during the week. From humble beginnings in the Western Suburbs playing for Sunshine George Cross and Green Gully in the VPL, Manny has just completed a stellar season in the A-League with Wellington Phoenix, winning the club's Player's Player of the Year Award and the Member's Player of the Year Award, and voted second for the Sony Player of the Year Award.

He also has eight international caps for Malta having even played in a 2010 World Cup qualifier against Sweden. Football has been a long and hard journey for Manny, however his sheer passion, devotion and love for the game he adores has payed dividends on a career that still has much more to offer.

Q Since making your A-League debut in 2008 how has your Wellington journey been travelling?

A It's been pretty good to be fair, I've been there three years now and in the last few years we've made finals. Last year we were so close to the Grand Final but we missed out, but so far I've enjoyed it and as the years go on I'll get better and improve my game.

Q What's it like playing under the helm of Ricky Herbert?

A He's the first professional coach that I've had, each coach has got their own personal mentality on how they want to play the game and I quite enjoy playing under him.

Q What are your ambitions for the future? At the age of 26 would you consider a move overseas?

A I've still got one more year down at the Phoenix, but that option is always open. Everyone wants to play overseas, have a trial up there, or have an opportunity to play in Europe. It's always a goal for everyone to make it in Europe.

Q Being raised in the Western suburbs of Melbourne, how did representing Malta

eventuate?

A It all happened so quickly to be honest. I was playing for the Phoenix, and then they (Maltese Football Association) said they were looking for overseas Maltese players and they happened to contact the club. I was more than happy to get involved in the national team.

Q You have an upcoming Euro Qualifier against Greece on the 26th of March. Looking forward to it?

A At the moment I'm not apart of the squad for the game, so we'll just have to wait and see, hopefully I'll get a call up sometime soon but at the moment I haven't heard anything.

Q How would you describe the feeling when you made your International debut for Malta against the Czech Republic in June 2009?

A Obviously playing at International level is a step up from playing the league games. When I played that first game I had mixed emotions. We were playing against top quality opponents, our result didn't go our way we lost 1-0 but it was a good experience.

Q Did you ever imagine you would reap this amount of success back when you were plying your trade in the VPL for Sunshine and Green Gully?

A Like I said it happened so quickly, within three years I'm now playing A-League football. I never thought for one bit that I would make it where I have.

Q How would you describe the transition from being a semi-professional in the VPL to a professional footballer in the A-League?

A The transition is quite a big step up. In the VPL you've got the luxury of your home and the comfort of your players. But in the professional stage you've always got to be improving and performing or else the following week you won't be playing. At this point in time you've got to be playing week in week out.

Q Who has been the biggest



Manny Muscat in action for Phoenix against Adelaide United during the first week of the HAL Finals Series. Photo: ADAM BUTLER. Inset: Manny in action for Sunshine George Cross in the VPL back in 2007. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

influence on your career and why?

A My father has always been there through the tough times. In a professional sense I think that everyone I've played against and played with, especially the older boys. The likes of Paul Ifill, some of the Socceroos' like John McKain and Andrew Durante. They've all been in the league and playing professional for a number of years. You try to get as much information and knowledge from them and hopefully that will improve your game.

Q Do you believe A-League administration has failed with the expansion process and the manner the competition has been performing of late?

A Not really, I think where the A-League is now is where it should be. The last couple of years the crowds haven't been where they should be. I think any expansion through the league is just going to cause

lower crowds at the moment.

Q Albeit the negative media publicity off the pitch, the A-League has seen an improvement in the technical standards this season. Why do you believe a superior standard has been evident?

A The standard of quality playing performances has improved due to the teams. We've seen the likes of Brisbane Roar and Central Coast; they're playing some great football at the moment. They've set the standard now. I don't believe the A-League has seen such quality of players since the inception of the league. I think it's up to the other clubs like the Phoenix to step up and compete.

Q The yellow fever is renowned for being one of the best supporter groups in the A-League, how big an impact do they have on the Phoenix?

A You see it for yourself at

the home games; they're always there through thick and thin. Come ten minutes of the final whistle, if we're leading they show their true passion by taking off their tops and getting amongst it all. When they're that loud they're like our 12th man during the game.

Q Do you believe New Zealand has the capacity for a second expansion team? If so, where would you base it?

A The first season of the A-League there was the New Zealand Knights and they weren't successful. The Phoenix with Terry Serepisos (Phoenix owner) has done a wonderful job to bring the professional stage to Wellington. At the moment I don't think there's room for another A-League club in New Zealand. If there were to be (a new team) I would pursue a team towards the Christchurch area due to the attendance we've had when we played a game in Christchurch.

Q Who's the toughest opponent you have face on the International arena and in the A-League?

A You can't get better than Portugal, the line-up they had against Malta was unbelievable. They were by far the hardest team we played against. In the A-League Brisbane is quite tough, we didn't get a result all season against them. So you would have to say Brisbane Roar is the team to beat.

Q You're yet to score a goal in the A-League, should we expect any wild celebrations if you hit the back of the net?

A Yeah for sure, I haven't scored yet so hopefully it comes soon.

Q Thanks for your time and all the best with your future football endeavours.

A Thanks a lot mate!

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Krncevic's Crunchlines

Australian soccer legend, Eddie Krncevic represented the Socceroos 35 times and scored 17 goals. He played professionally in Europe for Dimano Zagreb (Croatia), MSV Duisberg (Germany), Mulhouse (France) and Anderlecht, FC Liege, Aalst and Charleroi in Belgium. Eddie is currently the coach of the VPL's South Melbourne FC.

With Eddie Krncevic

GREETINGS football fans and welcome to another dose of Krncevic's Crunchlines.

LJUBO'S A BLUE

I was absolutely delighted this week that South Melbourne FC secured the services of Ljubo Milicevic until June/July.

It will be great to have such a quality player, who is a proven leader, join our ranks in the VPL. I look forward to Ljubo bringing his wealth of experience to the club and have no doubt in my mind that he will be an asset and an influential figure that will be beneficial to the team and especially the younger members of

the squad.

I originally received a call from Ljubo during the week expressing his desire to play regular football, when he was in Dubai on a stop-over and on his way back to Australia. How could any coach resist the temptation of having the calibre of a former Socceroo with European Champions League experience join the club, temporarily or otherwise. It was just a pity for VPL fans that Ljubo's registration wasn't cleared in time to take the field against Bentleigh Greens in yesterday's match. But at least for the next few months until the European window opens up again, we at South Melbourne

FC are looking forward to having Ljubo involved in our set up and I am sure it will only be a positive outcome for the player, the club and the VPL.

Having said that, it has also been great to have Melbourne Heart players Kamal Ibrahim and Kliment Tasevski, playing for the 'Blue and Whites' this VPL season. We have only got them on loan until May, but both players have a bright future ahead of them and have demonstrated that they have the right attitude and quality to progress even beyond the A-league. Melbourne Heart must be commended for their professionalism and foresight to conduct

and build a working relationship with a VPL club that again, will be beneficial to the development of the players, as well as the VPL and the A-League.

MAC ATTACK

South Melbourne played the VTC at Port Melbourne last Wednesday night in a mid-week match, and in another entertaining affair the result was 3-2 in favour of the youngsters.

VTC coach Mehmet Durakovic must be applauded for the way his young guns played; they thoroughly deserved the win and Mehmet has got a really good bunch of players on his hands.

Without taking nothing away from the VTC, it was actually South Melbourne's fourth game in fourteen days, and I think for this band of part-timers the demands of juggling a regular working life-style and trying to play football at a semi-decent level had finally taken its toll.

Nevertheless, my boys were guilty of making some mistakes during certain passages of play

and we were punished accordingly.

With the big match against Bentleigh Greens now out of the way as well, we've got to get ourselves equipped for battle in the derby match against arch rivals Heidelberg United this weekend. The derby games are always a bit special and this one shouldn't be any different. It promises to be a colourful affair with some quality players on show, so I encourage all football fans to come along and support your team and enjoy the football.

In years gone by a fixture involving Hellas and Alexander would draw crowds in the vicinity of fifteen to twenty thousand spectators and it used to be the highlight of the local football calendar.

Of course, times have changed and the football landscape is very different to how we remember it, but there's no reason why a game like this cannot attract a crowd in the region of five or so thousand.

With the right promotion and marketing, a game like this should still be one of the flagship games

of the VPL competition.

Both clubs have obvious strong connections with the Greek community, and with the Antipodes Festival taking place over the weekend in Melbourne's CBD, perhaps free tickets could have been handed out to the many people that attended that particular event.

Some of you who have read my columns before will identify that I'm referring back to the old 'McDonald's Theory'.

Just like a pickle in a cheeseburger, it might sound a bit tired, but it actually is a proven formula that does actually work.

Give people an invitation or incentive to visit the first time around and they will probably stay longer and indulge themselves even more - Receive a voucher for some free fries, and you'll probably end up buying a Big Mac and a Coke.

In this case it might be a souvlaki or two!

Gas Bagging Dept.



BOO'S WORLD



With Mark Boric

CENTRAL beat Gold in the battle of the Coasts to set up a Brisbane Roar v Central Coast Mariners 2011 HAL Grand Final.

Could it be another classic like last week's encounter between the pair? It's stories of redemption for the two coaches, Ange Postecoglou bouncing back from a disappointing end to his National Youth team coaching career and YouTube classic interview by Craig Foster on the SBS The World Game programme. After assisting Guus Hiddink, Graham Arnold was much maligned when taking over during Australia's first Asian Cup campaign, and again on the Socceroos bench as an assistant was famously snubbed by Mark Bresciano when being subbed in South Africa at the last World Cup. They are both set for a hearty last laugh.

Well the FFA pulled the plug on the life support machine of North Queensland Fury during the week, much to the disappointment of much of the football community. Some were upset, many were outraged, a few were filthy and yes, some were even furious.

Everyone likes to see their fullbacks to get forward, and get crosses in or maybe even shoot, but the shoot-on-sight policy adopted by Ashley Cole last week



Ultimately in the world of football all roads somehow lead to the VPL. Former Jet Ljubo Milicevic follows the trend and makes a stop-over landing with South Melbourne FC.

was ridiculous. Maybe it was the first shot in the footballer's rebellion against modern training regimes, as the victim of his air rifle at the training ground was a sports science student on work experience.

Three Asian Champions League campaigns now and making fun of another Victory capitulation is getting a bit old. It's so hard to find something new. 3-0 down after just ten minutes, there hadn't been so many Aussies go missing in Asia since Balibo. If Kevin Muscat didn't want to retire on the note of having kicked Adrian

Zahra off the park, he faces a task ahead to make sure his final match is not another heavy Asian spanking.

The Ljubo Milicevic Soap Opera has seen the action relocated from Europe to the VPL. Slugging it out with Charlie Sheen for the title of being the pre-eminent quote maker of the day, rumour is that as he returned to Anglo Australia rival clubs tried to hijack him at the airport to pry him from South Melbourne's grasp. We are not even at half-time with this one.



THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas

GETTING straight into it, over to the Land Of the Rising Sun we go, where the Saki flows freely and Happy End Girls are dressed up to the Max.

Where, unfortunately for Ernie and his Boys, they copped an absolute pasting at the hands of Gamba Osaka, a performance I am sure that they would like to forget in a hurry.

The Sad End was evident right from the word go, as the Victory was down 3-0 before I could blink, it's defense resembled what many pop stars refer to as Training Cones.

They have their work cut out if they are to get their Asian Cup Finals campaign back on track, but I have complete faith in Ernie that he can turn it around. I wonder of the Scorer shares this view.

The Scorer got a late night call during the week and over to Perth he flew where the Wicket of David Mitchell fell.

"Mitch" took on the role of Football Director early on in the Season after he successfully managed to lose 4 games on the trot

The Perth Club Powerbrokers called in a wealth of Football Experience to review the Perth Performance in the Season just gone past, the Toe Cutters being Hockey's Rick Charlesworth and former Freemantle Dockers CEO David Hatt.

These Gentlemen found that Perth spent bucket loads on the wrong players, with the quote of the Cen-

tury going to Hatt who stated that "More needs to be done in the recruitment area to guard against the presence of players who simply seek a superannuated end to their careers.

Somehow I don't think that Robbie Fowler will be sharing a J Walker with Hatt in a hurry.

Furthermore, ageing VPL Players should carefully keep watch at Tullamarine Airport, just in case any VPL Clubs invite Hatt to review their Club's performances.

As predicted last week, the Fury are no longer with Ben and Co flying in during the week on a Sad End mission, which spells the end of the Historic 2 Year Club.

The Locals are non too pleased about this decision, with the Clubs Director's absolutely seething, however, they should rest assured that Ben with his vast experience in the Administration of the Round Ball Game has got it right, as I do. Unfortunately the FFA got this one wrong in a big way, if the A-League is to grow and be actually able to return an investment to the Club's Owners, it requires more Teams in Capital City's such as Adelaide and Sydney.

Goal a Game Arnie was absolutely delighted and relieved at the conclusion of the Central Coast Mariners V Gold Coast United Preliminary Final, where his Team courtesy of a Swansik Goal, defeated Bleiberg's Boys, and will now tackle Brisbane Roar in the Grand Finale to this Elite and Quality Competition.

As the players prepare for the big clash, so will the Foxtel Commentators also, with Andy Harper feverishly reading the dictionary, to discover some new words that he can use during his call

I didn't know that Harps also writes on the Fox Sports Website, where his use of the English Vocabulary is rather interesting. His assessment of the Fury's demise was summed up as follows: The first question is how, after the fanfare, did North Queensland become so septic so quickly?

For any Victorians who struggle to understand the above, it can be better described as how did the Fury end up Werribee bound.

Last but not least, over to the local scene we go, where on Friday night at Jack's Place, the White Eagles caused an early Season upset holding the Canon to a 2-2 Draw, a game that they perhaps could have won, if they didn't miss a sitter in the dying minutes.

Seems that he trend from the UK is following on here on the Local Scene with the top teams being dropping points to the Cellar Dwellers.

Now for some word associations. Crisis Meeting - Prelude to a Coach being shown the Door. On a Road to Nowhere - A-League An accident waiting to happen - A-League

Until Next Week, This is Katsa, just as you have known him.



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The man who would be king

By Craig MacKenzie

FROM the mountains of Sicily to the dizzy heights of the most powerful office in Victorian football. That's the path Nick Monteleone hopes to tread this month.

Monteleone has nominated for the position of president of Football Federation Victoria but in his way stands lawyer Annette Hughes, a leading partner of Allens Arthur Robinson.

Voters consist of zone representatives and standing committee chairs and the result of this important contest will be announced by Returning Officer Doug Wellington at the federation's AGM on Thursday 17 March.

Hughes also is standing for election to one of two directors' positions. She has been an appointed director of the FFV board for almost 18 months.

Monteleone already serves as an elected director and irrespective of the outcome of the presidential contest will remain on the board for at least another two years.

Monteleone was born in 1961 and his family arrived here from Italy in 1968. He grew up in North Fitzroy, a couple of hefty drop punts from the Brunswick Street Oval. His first sport was Aussie Rules and he remains a Fitzroy supporter to this day.

His first contact with soccer was through a group of players "kicking a round ball about" near Brunswick Street Oval. He joined in and soon joined their club, Fitzroy United, the embryo of Fitzroy United Alexander, now known as Heidelberg United.

When his family moved to Lalor the teenage Monteleone joined Thomastown (now Whittlesea Ranges).

Academic pursuits soon took precedence over his sporting involvement. Marriage, three children and a professional career set him further apart from his playing days. Then one day he came home from work to learn that wife Colleen had registered their three boys with local club Epping City.

Monteleone became a junior coordinator there before becoming vice-president then setting out on an eight-year reign as president during which he successfully grew the club into fielding 23 teams and boasting around \$90,000 in its bank account.

"It's been my experience that the biggest supporter and sponsor of our sport is local government," said Monteleone.

"When I got there (Epping City) people's view was that council didn't give a damn about our game and that we were treated like second-class citizens. So I said that we were going to invite council to every function, give them a newsletter about what we're doing

and embed ourselves into their thinking.

"Other codes used to walk into council as a group but I'd walk in as a person representing one club. I learnt early on that disunity is death. While we're fighting each other they don't want to know us so we must work together because our real competitors have a different shaped ball and a different sized ball.

"One of the things our sport has to work on is not to become politicised in the sense of taking sides but using the political process to bring dividends to the game." And Monteleone can point to the facilities in place at Epping City as evidence of the success of his approach.

He's proud of his migrant background. That's obvious when he talks about an event a few years ago that had a profound effect upon him.

"I was asked to speak at a gathering for Brunswick Zebras junior soccer club and I remember rocking up to the ground and out the front was this old real estate advertising board ... (part of) the wording said 'Italian past, Australian future' and that is embedded in my brain.

"To me that encapsulates that you acknowledge the past but you work to the future otherwise we won't have a future. You can't erase the past. We have 126 years of history of the game in this state and everybody has made a contribution. Everybody.

"New migrants wouldn't have an opportunity to add their colour to the game if those before them hadn't kept the game alive. While the history of migrant involvement in our game was a strength for the sport like all great sports we needed to evolve and that is what I want to continue."

"One of the things our sport has to work on is not to become politicised in the sense of taking sides but using the political process to bring dividends to the game."

There's been talk on Internet forums recently that a change at the top of football administration in Victoria will usher in a complete revamp of the sport. The fact that FFV's strategic plan is about to come to an end and a new plan put in place has added impetus to the talk.

"First of all, I was a supporter of reform and I'm a great supporter of the constitutional change that has been ushered in. You may recall a time when junior clubs, women's clubs and country clubs didn't have a say and that annoyed me.

"I figured if I belonged to a club that ended up writing out a cheque to the federation for close to \$30,000 then that club should have a vote and I should be able to go along to meetings and have a say.

"As for the strategic plan I have been a huge supporter but the current plan is about to finish and it's time now to have another look. This is the challenge for the sport. The reality is that there was a lot of expectation that a successful World Cup bid would turbo-charge our game but that obviously didn't happen. Now we have to listen to what our customers say about the current state of the game and plan how we can all work together to move it forward."

Listening to customers is one thing but acting on their feedback is another. Monteleone claims that he'll engage with clubs and that he will work to improve the relationship between FFV and the clubs.

"If we as a federation make a mistake then we should go and apologise to the customer then address the problem. We want to be measured as an organisation that's honest with our customers and one of the things I'll be advocating is that if you are successful at an appeals board hearing then you should get all your bloody money back! Quite frankly I think it's a denial of natural justice to act otherwise."

There's also talk that with a new strategic plan in the offing the summertime Champions League will be axed but Monteleone dismisses the suggestion. He also has a firm view on the policy of making juniors go through the summer competition in order to win state selection.

"I'm a great supporter of the Champions League concept which basically says that a player can play with his mates in winter but the best youngsters in the zone play as a representative squad in a high-level competition in summer.

"Now we can debate whether the Champions League runs over 10 weeks or 12 weeks and we'll certainly be doing that review. But what we need to remember is that it meets the criteria that FFA wants and they are quite clear about that – they say that you need to be playing for this length of time (throughout the year) to reach a certain level and to compete at that level. I think it is sound advice from the national body.

"The key for us clearly is to ensure at the same time that we are supporting and growing winter community football because that is our bread and butter. In fact it is the very reason that we exist as a federation.

"Remember that over here in summer is two percent and over here in winter is 98 percent." He sees problems with the



FFV presidential candidate Nick Monteleone hopes to lead Victorian football into the future.

Champions League concept that need to be addressed but he's confident that his board could do so.

"We need to get the structure right and we need transparency in the process. We want to reach a stage where we have a head coach in each zone who doesn't coach anywhere else. Their role wouldn't be simply to coach the Champions League coaches but to also be a coach educator in winter looking after junior coaches in their zone.

"Let's finalise the structure so that everyone understands how it operates. We need to ensure that we get the best zone coaches and the best out of them becomes the state coach because that is their pathway.

"Clubs are loathe to get involved in the Champions League concept because they feel they don't have ownership of it. The idea was predicated on the clubs owning the zone. We haven't got there yet and we need to because this is the clubs' representative team."

The way FFV's financial statement is presented remains a contentious issue in the sport. Indeed last year's AGM brought that matter to a head when members present claimed that they were not afforded the opportunity to raise questions pertaining to the statement.

Given that Monteleone is pushing the concept of transparency in his election bid does he see any room for improvement in how financial matters are communicated to members? "Absolutely. We need to tell members where the money comes from and where it goes because it is their right to know.

"We might meet an account-

ing standard in presentation but having two line items that describe your total income of \$9 million is not good enough. In my view there is room for expanding and elaborating on what this is made up of. I recall some years ago there were around 30 line items for expenses and seven or eight items for revenue.

"If we are going to be open, honest and transparent with our members and take them on a journey to where we want the game to be then we've got to do so reasonably."

Monteleone and Hughes both have candidate statements posted on FFV's website and the former points to his successful advocacy of a statewide cup competition as one of his contributions during his past four years as a director.

However, he has significant points of difference with the structure of the recently announced Mirabella Cup, which offers \$50,000 in prizemoney yet charges \$500 for all VPL and State One entrants and \$200 for clubs in lower leagues.

The competition also involves both Melbourne-based A-League franchises who, along with VPL and State One clubs, enter the fray at a later date to amateur clubs (Editor's note: there's no mention yet on the FFV website what Melbourne Victory's and Melbourne Heart's entry fees are or if such fees exist).

"Personally I'd prefer not to have clubs entering the competition after a certain number of rounds," said Monteleone.

"I have a romantic view of cup competitions whereby you all go into a hat and the draw is made and if Baxter is drawn

against Melbourne Heart then so be it.

"This cup competition will evolve over the years and I firmly believe that clubs should be invited to play in it without it costing them anything.

"As things stand clubs pay enough. Our task should be to make our game more affordable because we are in a very competitive market."

No doubt Monteleone can hear club bosses and volunteers cheering that comment from one end of the state to the other.

And if he ever needs to get a feel for what's happening at grassroots level then he need look no further than being joined at the kitchen table with his wife and their sons, Benjamin (22 years old), Anthony (20) and Christopher (19).

"Our sons are involved in coaching, playing and refereeing and believe me they give me plenty of customer feedback, warts and all.

"I often think that we (FFV) make the mistake of taking a stick to the clubs when it's not all about beating people over the head.

"I want to reward clubs who share our vision of the game. Don't worry about the stick – let's worry about the carrot. Let's create incentives. If a club isn't charged with an offence throughout the season, pays its bills on time and meets all the accreditation let's reward them. Let's invest in them because they've invested in our game."

Hmm, interesting concept. Maybe things will be different after all. Many are waiting, Nick. Most with baited breath.

Date with Destiney Arrives For Cup

By Robert Di Fabio

LAST month the FFV and Mirabella announced an exciting new development for football within Victoria.

The re-introduction of a knock-out cup competition was brought into fruition. The Dockerty Cup was a grand tradition in Victorian football dating back to 1909. With the cup format being in recess since 2004 many within the football fraternity are excited and eager about the prospect of cup football being apart of the Victorian football calendar.

The Mirabella Cup competition has been opened to all FFV affiliated clubs and additionally the powerhouses of Victorian football- Melbourne Victory and fellow expansion club Melbourne Heart will be introduced at the Quarter-Final stage.

The cup competition is being funded by Mirabella. The company has signed a 10 year agreement to be the formal naming right sponsors for the competition. Reports have suggested that Mirabella will be distributing \$50,000 in prize money for the participants who reach the semi-final stage, however FFV spokeswoman Georgie Herbert stated that “we’re still working through some final details around finals formats, which will help determine how this (prize-money) will be distributed”. The Final is set to take place prior to the commencement of the 2011/12 Hyundai A-League season, although a date has not been confirmed at present.

CUP FORMAT:
Dates:

The commencement of the cup will take place prior to the standard league season (for State, Provisional and Metropolitan leagues) on either the weekends



There's nothing like a good cup run to kick-start your season, and FFV clubs can find out if they're going to be a David or a Goliath when the draw for the Mirabella Cup is made on Tuesday 8th March. Photo: From the BFTP Files

of the 19th or 26th of March, depending on the number of teams participating within the relevant zonale region. Following these dates, future cup ties will be played as mid-week fixtures in conjunction with the league season throughout the year.

Competition Structure:
Stage 1:

•All clubs from State League Two and below will be drawn against each other within their relevant zone in a knock-out format. The first stage could comprise of two-four rounds depending on the number of clubs registered within the relevant zone. The final two clubs in each region will

qualify for the next stage.

Stage 2:

•The two remaining clubs from the initial zone knockout stage will drawn against either an Al-anic Victorian Premier League or State League One outfit within their relevant zone or local area. Each zone will have one club representing the subsequent area and will proceed to the next stage.

Stage 3 (Super 12's):

•Each club representing their relevant zone will play-off in a one match tie, consequently leaving six clubs remaining.

Stage 4 (Quarter-Finals & Hyundai A-League representation):

•The six winners of the Super 12's stage will be incorporated with A-League delegates- Melbourne Victory and Melbourne Heart.

Stage 5 (Semi-Finals):

•The remaining four clubs will play-off for a birth in the inaugural Mirabella Cup Final.

Stage 6:

•The two outstanding clubs will battle it out for the 2011 Mirabella Cup.

Zone format:

There will be 12 zones present. Each club in stages 1 & 2 will

be drawn within their direct zone (reminiscent of the Victorian Champions League):

Metropolitan Zones:

- Northern
- Eastern
- Southern
- Western
- Central
- North West
- North East
- South East

Country Zones:

- Wimmera South Coast
- Goulburn North East
- Loddon Mallee
- Gippsland

Live draw:

Via the FFV website there will be a live stream of the draw this Tuesday 8th of March to determine who your club will be facing for the opening round of the cup (Stage 1). At the time of printing the time of the draw wasn't available, so for more information visit the FFV website. In addition, a live draw will also be apparent for each stage of the competition.

The first drawn club will be allocated the home team for that fixture; if the game is allocated as a night fixture the home club must meet the FFV regulations for lighting standards. If these are not met then the second drawn team will be allocated as the home team. Watching your club get drawn, further enhances a sense of professionalism, exhilaration and excitement for Victorian football.

Competition Rules:

•If the scores are level at the conclusion of 90 minutes, two periods of 15 minutes extra time will be played. If the scores are level again at the conclusion of extra time a penalty shoot-out will em-

ployed to determine the winning team.

•Each team is permitted to name five substitutions on the bench and also use five substitutions throughout the match in contrast to the customary three.

•A player who receives three yellow cards during the Mirabella Cup will subsequently miss the next game in the tournament. If the player receives their third yellow card in the fixture where the club gets knocked out of the cup, then the player's ban will carry over to next season's tournament.

•If a player represents one club in the Mirabella Cup, he is not permitted to embody another club in the cup that season.

The Mirabella Cup is an exciting project for Victorian football. There's a sense of excitement throughout the football community in relation to this latest development from the FFV. In the vein of the FA Cup, seeing the minnows in English football overcome the big boys is why cup football has had a distinctive place within our game. The under-dog tag is an element within sport in which Australians love to embrace; we only need to reminisce back to the Socceroos' pilgrimage at the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

The Mirabella Cup will allow every club an equal opportunity to prove their worth on the day. There may be a division in class and stature; nevertheless as we all know enchanted chronicles do occur in cup football.

Dreams will come into fruition and heroes will commit to memory. Let the Mirabella Cup begin.

Asia Scene with Daniel Iaconis

Kennedy hits the spot in J-League season opener

Japan

Opening day of the J-League kicked off on Saturday with defending champions Nagoya Grampus hosting Yokohama F. Marinos at Toyota Stadium in a 1-1 draw. The visitors took the lead in the 63rd minute thanks to a Shingo Hyodo strike and the hosts left it till the fifth minute of stoppage time to equalise when Australian Josh Kennedy converted a spot kick after team mate Kensuke Nagai was fouled by Yuzo Kurihara inside the penalty area.

It's not the start the defending champs will be looking for, after winning last season's J-League by a massive 10 points, and Grampus coach Dragon Stojkovic will be hoping his side improves, both domestically and in

the ACL, if his side is to go back-to-back this season. In the other big game of the day Gamba Osaka managed to beat local rivals Cerezo Osaka 2-1 at the Osaka Expo '70 Stadium in the Derby of Osaka. It was a match of high emotions, with ex-Cerezo striker Martins Adriano scoring his first goal for his new team Gamba in the 65th minute. Adriano only recently transferred to Gamba from Cerezo in the off-season after helping the pink half of Osaka to a third place finish in 2010. The lead didn't last long however with Shu Kurata scoring the equaliser for Cerezo in the 73rd minute due to some rather sloppy defending from Gamba, but as he has done so many times before, Yasuhito Endo came to Gamba's rescue in the 76th

minute to ensure that Gamba took the points and bragging rights. Elsewhere on Saturday, newly promoted J-League 2 champions Kashiwa Reysol sent a warning to the rest of the league by defeating a 10-man Shimizu S-Pulse 3-0, while it was the reverse for the other new boys Avispa Fukuoka who were soundly beaten at Albirex Niigata. Other results saw Sanfrecce Hiroshima play out a goal-less draw at home to Vegalta Sendai, Venforet Kofu lost at home 1-0 to Jubilo Iwata, and Kawasaki Frontale defeated Montedio Yamagata 2-0 at home. Sunday will see Vissel Kobe host Japanese powerhouse Urawa Reds while the Kashima Antlers will host Omiya Ardija to close out the first week of the J-League.

South Korea

The K-League also got under way Saturday with Sangju Phoenix scoring on either side of the half-time break to defeat Incheon United 2-0 at home. The result will no doubt anger the Incheon faithful, who after finishing a dismal 11th last season would have anticipated that their side be on the improve in 2011. Elsewhere the Pohang Steelers hosted Champions of Asia Seongnam Illhwa Chunma in a 1-1 draw, with the hosts going in front early in the third minute thanks to a Mota goal, but their celebrations wouldn't last long with the visitors finding an equaliser 10 minutes later through Jin Yong Kim. Gwangju FC and Daegu FC played out an entertaining five goal thriller with



Socceroo Josh Kennedy is off the mark in the J-League goal scoring charts after salvaging a point from the penalty spot deep into injury time.

Gwangju winning 3-2, while Gangwon were beaten at home 1-0 by Gyeongnam. Sunday sees reigning champions Seoul FC host Suwon Bluewings in what many see as being a prelude to what

may come in the decider in December, with both sides being touted as possible grand-finalists. Sunday also sees Jeju United host Busan, Keonbuk host Chunnam and Ulsan to host Daejeon.

WELCOME to this month's installment of Aussies Abroad. Many of our players returned to club football after the Asian Cup as domestic leagues approach the busy end of the football year. Quiet on the national front, but plenty lies ahead in the coming months. Minimal movement on the transfer scene but a bit happening on the youth front after the Christmas break.

Club Level

Certainly not the greatest month in the EPL for our boys. Everton had a patchy month with **Tim Cahill** struggling with injury. Fulham accumulated points in the form of draws, but are only just clear of the relegation places. **David Carney** returned to Blackpool to find himself in the starting lineup but his team have had a bad run and are now in the bottom half of the table after starting well. Blackburn have both **Brett Emerton** and **Vince Grella** on the park but find themselves also just clear of the relegation places. **Brad Jones** seems out of favour at Liverpool.

At Championship level, **Neil Kilkenny's** Leeds are holding on to the last playoff position but the teams above them are creating a fair gap for them to reel in. In the chasing pack are **Richard Garcia's** Hull City who claimed three victories for the month. Reading remain mid table and a playoff charge needs to happen now. **Scott McDonald** returned to the scoring charts as Middlesbrough remain just above the relegation places. Unfortunately our Aussies at Shef-

field United (**Lowry, Warren**) and Preston North End (**Wright**) will struggle to avoid the drop from here.

Not many Aussies playing League One at the moment, but **James Wesolowski's** Peterborough remain in the playoff positions after a solid month. Also in League Two, Chesterfield (**Downes**) remain three games clear of second position, almost guaranteeing promotion. **Shane Cansdell-Sheriff's** Shrewsbury Town had another good month and are looking good for a playoff position. Interesting to note that young keeper **Alex Cisak's** return to the Accrington Stanley starting lineup has coincided with a run of three consecutive victories. With games in hand, they are making a late charge to the playoffs.

Up north to Scotland, not much to report with regards to Aussies in the SPL. Not so in the second division where loan signings **Dylan McGowan** and **Matthew Park** have played a large part in the recent revival at East Fife.

On the continent, starting in Italy. Lazio have lost their hold on a Champions League spot, with Bresciano only getting one start for the month. Both **Madaschi** (Portosummaga) and **Valeri** (Sassuolo) are getting good minutes but their teams need a few points to avoid relegation battles in the coming months. **Mitch Langerak** made his debut at Dortmund as they extended their lead in the Bundesliga. Similar club success in the German second tier as **Nikita Rukavytsya** contributed well as Hertha went undefeated for

the month. Although starting most games, **Dario Vidosic's** loan team Arminia Bielefeld look destined for relegation.

A reasonable month in Holland for our Aussies with **AZ (Brett Holman)** still well in contention for a spot in Europe next season. Utrecht are the draw specialists these days and sit just out of those European places with **Oar, Sarota and Zullo** all seeing game time in February. **Jason Davidson** has been rewarded with his drop down a level in Portugal, gaining match fitness as a starter in each of his club (Covilha) fixtures for the month. **Scott Chipperfield's** Basel have opened up a lead of top of the table in Switzerland with Scott back on the scoring charts.

Our Aussies in Greece have had a mixed month with **Nathan Burns** just returning (and scoring) to the AEK squad, while **Paul Giannou** continues to get small minutes from the bench at Kavala. Both teams are in the top five spots currently. In the Football League (Greece second division), **Bill Konstantinidis** appeared in every game as Pierikos remain mid table.

Finally in Greece and the third tier, Eordiakos 2007(**Christos Tomaras**) are making a late charge for promotion earning 13 out of a possible 15 points in February.

A busy month in Turkey, but again mixed for the Aussies with **Harry Kewell** getting injured, **Mile Jedinak** and **Lucas Neill** in and out of their respective teams for a variety of reasons and **James Troisi** making his comeback after five months on the sidelines with a knee

problem. Moving to Asia, China, South Korea and Japan are all scheduled to resume in the next few weeks. Indonesia continues to see more Aussies in the rebel league, getting valuable game time and reportedly decent pay packets. **Tolgey Ozbey** had a bit of a lean month in India (East Bengal) after a blistering start. **Jerry Karpeh's** Churchill Brothers have just moved ahead of them on the table. Finally a mention to once touted Socceroo, **Richard Porta**, who scored his first for the season at his club, Nacional in Uruguay.

Club Competitions:- Europe

(UEFA Champions League) No Aussies remain. (UEFA Europa Cup) Chipperfield started and scored in the second eg against Spartak Moscow but they were eliminated on aggregate.

Asia (AFC Champions League) No fixtures in February (AFC Cup) No fixtures in February

South America (Copa Libertadores) Richard Porta started one fixture and remained on the bench for the other (Nacional)

Oceania (O-League) NSW based players, Ekinci, Belcaid, Cem and Mansaray all turned out for Lautoka (Fiji) as they lost 5-1

Youth Of the players eligible for the U20 World Cup, **Bailey Wright** continues to be involved with the first team at Preston North End. In Italy, **Adrian Uccino** has debuted at his loan club (Sangiovannese), **Francesco Stella** continues in the Primavera team at AC Siena and **Theo Markelis** debuted for the Vicenza Primavera team. As mentioned, **Jason Davidson** is gaining first team experience in Portugal, while in Scotland, **Dylan McGowan** continues to impress at East Fife while goalkeeper **Nick Feely** has progressed to the Celtic reserves. Seventeen year olds **Dylan Tombides** (West Ham) and **Jamie Maclaren** (Blackburn) featured in the reserves for their respective club sides. The pick of performances for those eligible for the Olympics would be **Cisak** (Accrington Stanley), **Herd** (Aston Villa) and **Govas** (Kozani) with all having good months.

Injuries Many of our injured players have just resumed training; **Rhys Williams** (groin), **Patrick Kisorbo** (achilles), Aaron Downes (knee), **Daniel Leach** (foot) and **Richie Garcia** (knee) may all lineup before the season is out. **Adam Federici** twisted his knee and looks like missing at least a month, while **Harry Kewell** is also in the medical rooms.

National level Not much happening at international level. Several camps have been arranged in March and April for both fringe Socceroos

and some of our youth team players. Will certainly be interested to see who gets the call up and how they perform as these players look to put themselves on the radar for representative honours. The Socceroos have a friendly against Germany late March.

Transfers

The transfer window is closed until mid year. A couple of loan moves went through in Scotland and a few Aussies returned to Australia for the start of the domestic leagues. With the HAL coming to a close for the season, numerous players either have or will be heading to Asia over the next month.

Additions/changes to database

Tomislav Arcaba (25 Mar 1986) – transferred to FK BSK Borca, Serbia
Alex Brosque (12 Oct 1983) – transferred to Shimizu S-Pulse, Japan
Danny Invicibile (31 Mar 1979) – transferred to St. Johnstone, Scotland
Aden Luz (15 Jun 1993) – transferred to CD Nacional, Portugal
Ryan McGowan (15 Aug 1989) – loan to Partick Thistle, Scotland
Matthew Park (22 Apr 1988) – loan to East Fife, Scotland

Removed from database

Andrew Bazi (24 Jun 1989) – transferred to Bonnyrigg, NSWPL
James Downey (10 Oct 1987) – transferred to Oakleigh, VPL



10TH -15TH JULY 2011



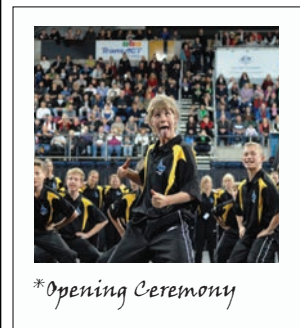
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*Players Disco



*Movie Night

South Hobart continue where they left off

By Walter Pless

TASMANIA
South Hobart began 2011 as they left off last season - by winning a trophy.

They won Saturday's Summer Cup with a convincing 4-0 win over Tilford Zebras and clearly sent out a message: 'Catch us if you can.'

The rest of the field will need to improve dramatically if they are to catch this South Hobart side.

South were faster to the ball and more determined than Zebras. Their passing was superior to that of their opponents and, man-to-man, they were much better.

Their clinical finishing was rewarded with a fourth Summer Cup success, and the second in a row.

Zebras suffered a blow when midfielder Ricky Self succumbed to injury after just 5 minutes and took no further part in the match.

But, Zebras had a full-strength squad, which made their performance even more disappointing.

They missed a couple of good chances, but South Hobart were streets ahead and, even if the Zebras had scored those, South would still have finished on top.

Hugh Ludford and Cameron Williams were superb at the heart of defence in the absence of suspended captain Daniel Brown, while Jim Pennicott and Nick Di



South Hobart celebrate their first piece of silverware for 2011. Photo: WALTER PLESS

Falco, the two full-backs, were able to attack often. Indeed, Pennicott continued his habit of scoring by netting South's third goal.

Strikers Andy Brennan and Kostas Kanakaris were in outstanding form. Brennan scored twice, while Kanakaris made two of the goals.

Tom Roach and Shae Hickey were in excellent form in the middle of the park, Roach scoring South's fourth goal and Hickey hitting the woodwork near the end with a cheeky chip.

Goalkeeper Mark Moncur was rarely troubled, while Jonathon Lo and Greg Downes instigated many attacks as they got the bet-

ter of their opponents.

Interchange players Luke Huigsloot, Jon Foley-Donoghue, Hugo Bladel and Mizael Linhares Caires were more than effective when they came on.

Brennan put South ahead in the 27th minute from Roach's through-ball, while he also added the second three minutes from the

break after Kanakaris had outwitted Matt Hall and Andrew Telega on the left before slipping the ball to the far post for his team-mate to smash home.

In the final seconds of the opening half, Zebras keeper Troy Kaden had to produce a save at full stretch to deny Roach.

Zebras blocked a couple of

strikes in quick succession in the 54th minute, but up popped Pennicott to end their resistance by making it 3-0 with a powerful shot from the edge of the box.

In the 79th minute, Kanakaris sent a free-kick in from the left aimed at the far post and there was Roach to score South's fourth with a powerful header.

Huigsloot and Bladel went mighty close in the dying minutes, with Zebras' only response being a terrible effort at a finish by Akuel Guot from Jonathon Ladic's pass.

South Hobart also won the Reserves Summer Cup with a 4-0 win over Kingborough Lions United.

Julius Ross gave South Hobart the lead in the 9th minute with a strong finish from range, but the Lions twice hit the woodwork before the interval. Dean Willcock had also gone close for South when he headed Callan Paske's cross just wide.

Willcock made it 2-0 five minutes after the resumption when he drilled a left-footed shot home from 30 metres.

Ross netted his second goal, and his side's third, in the 51st minute, while Tom Bilson completed the scoring five minutes from the end. Dylan Postma also hit the bar for South Hobart.

Zebras storm into Semis of Carlsberg Cup

By Lee Gagliardi

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
DEFENDING Super League champion Adelaide City has stormed into the semi-final of South Australia's preseason competition, the Carlsberg Cup with a 4-0 demolition of Western Strikers.

Nicholas Orr scored twice for City with the contest effectively over at half time when the visitors went into the break with a 3-0 lead.

Strikers captain Michele La Stella could have given his side the lead on the quarter hour when his free kick from outside the area rattled the bar.

La Stella's curling effort cleared the wall and had City keeper Luke Ostbye beaten, but not the frame of the goal.

Five minutes later and Adelaide City opened the scoring after some poor defending by the Strikers from a corner.

Strikers keeper Takumi Takahashi came out to meet the cross but was unable to clear it effectively and Jono Negus was on hand to blast home from inside the box and give City the lead.

Just after the half hour, Ricardo Da Silva was bundled over in the box from another corner and the referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot.

Orr stepped up and coolly dispatched the spot kick to double City's advantage.

And, on the stroke of half time Da Silva killed off all hopes of a Strikers comeback with the Black and White's third.

Da Silva collected the ball on the edge of the area, after a de-



Carlsberg Cup action from South Australia as Scott Tunbridge (MetroStars) scores from the spot and Paul Reily (Modbury) takes his position in goal. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

lightful exchange of passes involving Orr and Nick Budin, and took a touch before firing past Takahashi at the near post.

Early in the second half, Orr got his double to add insult to injury and comfortable secure City's passage to the last four.

The midfielder received the ball from Da Silva before letting fly with a spectacular long range effort that sailed over Takahashi's head and into the back of the net.

Last year's runner's up MetroStars thrashed a hapless Modbury 5-0 to also advance to the semi-

finals of the Carlsberg Cup.

In his first game since joining from Adelaide United, Francesco Monterosso bagged a double while former Adelaide City NSL striker Scott Tunbridge also got a brace with Steven Grelli also getting on the score sheet.

Metro went into the break with a slender 1-0 lead before piling on four second half goals to comfortable rout Modbury who return to the Super League in 2011 after relegation to the Premier League last season.

Tunbridge earned man-of-the-match honours while Daniel Menechella and Monterosso were

also outstanding.

The Jets' best were Tony Solagna and David Crowl.

Campbelltown have also enjoyed a comfortable win to progress to the last four after comfortably defeating South Adelaide 4-0.

Oliver Totani scored twice for the Red Devils while Matt Deegan and Stephen Piotto also found the back of the net.

The Red Devils were just in front at the break before three goals after half time killed off the Panthers.

Michael Menechella starred for Campbelltown in defence while

Deegan was also a standout.

In the late game on Sunday, Raiders also progressed to the semi-final of the Carlsberg Cup with a 3-1 win over Adelaide Galaxy.

Shannon Claridge got a double while Mimi Saric also got on the score sheet. For Galaxy, Michael De Bono netted in the first half.

With both sides level at the break, Raiders found the back of the net twice after half time to advance past the quarter final.

Daniel Hain starred for Raiders with Adam Harris and Claridge also outstanding.

SA Results

Carlsberg Cup
Quarter Final (Group 1 vs. 1st Highest Finishing)
Metro Stars 5 (Monterosso 2, Tunbridge 2, Grelli) v Modbury 0 (HT 1-0)

Best –Metro (Tunbridge, Menechella Dan, Monterosso) Modbury (Solagna, Crowl, Harvey)
Res – Metro Stars 1 v Modbury 0
U19 – Metro Stars 3 v Modbury 1

Quarter Final (Group 2 vs. 2nd Highest Finishing)
Western Strikers 0 v Adelaide City 4 (Orr 2, DA Silva, Negus) (HT 0-3)

Best –Western Strikers (Yosief, Haile, Noujaim) Adelaide City (Vlassis, D'arsie, Negus)
Res – Western Strikers 1 v 2 Adelaide City
U19 – Western Strikers 1 v 0 Adelaide City

Quarter Final (Group 4 vs. Group 5)
Campbelltown 4 (Totani 2, Deegan, Piotto) v South Adelaide 0 (HT 1-0)

Best – Campbelltown (Menechella, Deegan, Mantis) South Adelaide (Parker, Foglia, Kelly)
Res – Campbelltown 1 v 1 South Adelaide
U19 – Campbelltown 5 v 2 South Adelaide

Sunday 6 March 2011
Quarter Final (Group 3 vs. 3rd Highest Finishing)
Raiders 3 (Claridge 2, Saric) v 1 Adelaide Galaxy(Debono) (HT 1-1)

Best – Raiders (Hain, Harris, Claridge) Galaxy (Not Provided)
Res – Raiders 5 v 1 Galaxy
U19 – Raiders 1 v 5 Galaxy

Balcatta continue to set the pace

By Peter Simcox

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
BALCATTA continued where they left in round one with a stunning 4-1 win on the road against ECU Joondalup at The Edith Cowen University Campus, in round two of the Football West All Flags Premier Division on Saturday.

Defender Adam Tong put the visitors ahead from the penalty spot on 22 minutes, after Ashley Rosindale was brought down. Rosindale then struck either side of half-time, with Paul Vatisas netting in between to give Balcatta a 4-0 lead. Jordan Dodd's late goal for ECU was nothing more than a consolation and the side from Grindleford Reserve moved clear at the top of the table with a 100% record.

Bayswater City remained in second spot after a 0-0 draw against traditional Italian rivals Perth SC at Frank Drago Reserve. The best chance of an even first half fell to the home side's Gavin Knight, who rattled the crossbar in the 35th minute. Perth striker David Onoforo had a number of chances to win the game for Perth in the second half but he was unable to find the back of the net.

Cockburn City came away with a share of the spoils after a hard fought 1 -1 draw against Stirling Lions at Macedonia Park. The Lions gave a home debut to former Bournemouth and Burnley

midfielder Garreth O'Connor and his short free kick on the stroke of half time saw Scott Muirhead open the scoring with a powerful shot from the edge of the box. Cockburn levelled six minutes in to the second half in controversial circumstances. Former Lions striker Rory Feely firing home from close -range from a Johnny Mirco cross, after the referee had waved away his assistants offside flag, much to the displeasure of the Lions.

In the shock of the round Armadale ran out 3-1 winners against pre-season Champions Floreat Athena at the E&D Litis Stadium and give new Coach Scott Miller his first points of the season. Tom Robinson scored either side of the break, to give The Reds a 2-0 lead, before Miki Vujacic scored from a free kick on 69 minutes. The points were made safe for the visitors when Robinson crossed to Anthony Campbell who added a third four minutes later.

Mandurah City's bright start to the season came crashing down when they were beaten 2-0 by Inglewood United at The Hyundai Stadium. The game sprung into life in the second half, and the visitors took the lead in the 55th minute. A poor goal kick by Mandurah keeper Phil Straker was intercepted by Ndumbe Makeche, who raced clear and fired home with aplomb. The game was put out of the reach of Mandurah



Stirling Lions midfielder Jamie De Abreu and Cockburn City defender Jonathan Davite in action at Macedonia Park. Photo: PETER SIMCOX

seven minutes later when United added a second. This time Makeche was the provider, he was sent clear down the right and he played a ball across the face of goal to Rory Grant, who fired home from close-range.

The Football West NTC Squad entered the Premier League competition this week for the first time and were beaten 3-1 by Western Knights at Nash Field. The youngster held the Knights in the first half, but stunned the crowd when Recce Vittiglia opened the

scoring in the 54th minute. The Knights hit back 13 minutes later when Paul Cooke equalised, and the midfielder added a second eight minutes from time. The win was made safe in the last minute when Simon Versaico was brought down by Daniel Dolls and Glen Thomas had no problems from the spot, wrapping up the victory for the Knights.

In round three next Saturday Balcatta are at home for the first time this season when they entertain Mandurah City at Grind-

leford Reserve. Bayswater City travel to Dalmatinac Park to take on Cockburn City, while Perth SC host Stirling Lions at the BGC Stadium. The NTC squad travel to Percy Doyle Reserve to take on Sorrento, while Armadale host ECU Joondalup at Alfred Skeet Oval. The Sunday game sees bottom of the table Floreat Athena travel to Nash Field to take on Western Knights - All games kick off at 3pm WA time

All Flags WA Results

First Team
Floreat Athena 1 (Vujacic 68) Armadale 3 (Robinson 42, 49, Campbell 73); ECU Joondalup 1 (Dodd 84) Balcatta 4 (Tong 22, Rosindale 32, 52, Vatisas 48); Bayswater City 0 Perth SC 0; Mandurah City 0 Inglewood United 2 (Makeche 55, R Grant 62); Stirling Lions 1 (Muirhead 44) Cockburn City 1 (Mirco 53); Western Knights 3 (Cooke 67, 53, Thomas 89p) NTC 1 (Vittiglia 54).

Reserves
Floreat Athena 10 Armadale 1; ECU Joondalup 2 Balcatta 0; Bayswater City 4 Perth SC 2; Mandurah City 3 Inglewood United 2; Stirling Lions 0 Cockburn City 0; Western Knights 1 NTC 1.

Under 18's
Floreat Athena 3 Armadale 2; ECU Joondalup 4 Balcatta 1; Bayswater City 2 Perth SC 3; Mandurah City 0 Inglewood United 3; Stirling Lions 2 Cockburn City 1; Western Knights 1 NTC 2.

All Flags WA Premier League

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Balcatta	2	2	0	0	7	2	5	6
2 Bayswater City	2	1	1	0	2	0	2	4
3 Cockburn City	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
4 Western Knights	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	3
5 Inglewood Utd	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
6 Armadale	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
7 Mandurah City	2	1	0	1	2	3	-1	3
8 ECU Joondalup	2	1	0	1	3	5	-2	3
9 Perth SC	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
10 Stirling Lions	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	1
11 Sorrento	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
12 Floreat Athena	2	0	0	2	2	5	-3	0

FIVE STAR McLAUGHLIN LEADS WODEN TO BIG WIN

By Russ Gibbs

ACT
FIVE goals from striker Meg McLaughlin was the highlight as Woden Valley opened their Federation Cup campaign in sensational fashion with a 12-1 victory over ANU WFC at Woden Enclosed. In a Pool B encounter.

McLaughlin had a hat-trick by the 21st minute mark as the Valley youngsters ran roughshod over a beleaguered ANU defence in the opening half racking up a 9-0 score line by the interval as the ACT Grand Final Winners marked their season opener in some style. Even minus the talents of two of their three Canberra United Westfield W-League players in the form of Grace Field and Georgia Yeoman-Dale, Ed Hollis' team was simply unstoppable.

New recruit Ellie Raymond opened the scoring in the fifth minute and goals came at a regular interval thereafter. Ashleigh Palombi bagged a first-half hat-trick to ad to McLaughlin's treble with Emma Thornton and the dynamic Catherine Brown also finding the target. After the break McLaughlin added two more to complete her naphand, with an own goal completing the scoring for the home team nine minutes from time.

ANU's goal came seven minutes after half-time when Rebecca Winbom struck and the students made a much better fist of things in general in the second forty-five minutes with stand-in 'keeper Lara Cleaver under less pressure as Woden rang the changes giving a debut to the



Woden Valley (pictured here prior to winning last season's women's Premier League grand final) hit twelve of the best in their opening Fed Cup match on the weekend.

youthful Kadee Hollis.

Elsewhere in Pool B Gungahlin United kick-started their life as a Premier League club with a 6-1 defeat of Tuggeranong United. For those who were wondering what sort of impact that Gungahlin might have this season the answer was emphatic. Brittany Tully gave Gungahlin the lead before Freyja Jacobsen equalised in the 20th minute. Malin Jornhole gave the Northsiders a 2-1 advantage at the break with the first of her two goals as the match seemed fairly even.

The second half though saw Gungahlin up the ante and their young charges were in superb form adding goals through Jornhold, Laura Sofoulis and Gabby Ciardullo in a twenty minute spell that was too much for Tuggeranong to handle. A late sixth from Dianne Wilson added further gloss to an already top-sided scoreboard as Gungahlin roared home.

Pool A offered two much closer matches as reigning holders, and aiming for their fifth title in a row, Belwest Foxes were held to a 1-1 draw by a much-improved Canberra FC. Canberra United forward Ashleigh Sykes gave Canberra FC the lead converting a Grace Gill cross in the 5th minute and the visitors held on until stoppage time when the Foxes struck a late leveler to take a share of the spoils.

Belconnen United meanwhile got their Pool A fixtures off to a perfect start with a hard-fought 1-0 win over Weston Creek. A solitary goal from Sabrina Spinaplice was the difference with the Blue Devils forward striking just before the half-hour mark. Returning Belconnen players PC Hepperlin and Amy Wilson were excellent in heir first start for five years, whilst Ilahna Aitchison was the stand-out for Antoni Jagarinec's team who are one of the competition favourites.

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GROUP 1

EASTERN LIONS
MOOROOLBARK
MORELAND
WAVERLEY WANDERERS

GROUP 2

SOUTHERN STARS
CASEY COMETS
OLD SCOTCH
SANDRINGHAM

SATURDAY 12th MARCH

12.00 PM WAVERLEY WANDERERS v MORELAND

1.25 PM SOUTHERN STARS v SANDRINGHAM

2.50 PM EASTERN LIONS v MOOROOLBARK

4.15 PM OLD SCOTCH v CASEY COMETS

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Penarol gets 3-1 win away to Godoy Cruz whilst Universidad Catolica upset Velez in a seven-goal

THIS past week, plenty of action went underway in the Copa Libertadores with some surprising results. Amongst the highlights were Chilean club Universidad Catolica who scored twice in the closing minutes Thursday to defeat Velez Sarsfield 4-3 at home in Buenos Aires.

The stunning victory gave Universidad Catolica four points in two matches. Velez has three from two. Despite a goal after only 40 seconds Lucas Pratto for the Chilean side, Velez took control with three unanswered goals before the break—Fernando Ortiz in the 20th, Augusto Fernandez in the 21st and Argentinean international left back Emiliano Papa in the 45th—to lead 3-1.

Then things began collapse for the Liniers side from Buenos Aires as Ortiz was sent off in the 51st minute and Velez coach Ricardo Gareca played the wrong cards sending on defender Fernando Tobio and taking off Morales, who did not look happy about the change and Catolica edged back with Thomas Costa cutting the lead to 3-2 in the 73rd minute, finalists in 1993, back in the match.

Eluchans had attacked on the left and threaded the ball through to Costa who scored with a shot from outside the box that went in close to goalkeeper Marcelo Barovero's far post. Catolica wrapped up the come-

back in the 88th with Pratto's second and the winner in injury time from Francisco Pizarro after a Velez attack broke down on the edge of the box in added time.

The counter-attack, orchestrated by Argentine playmaker Marcelo Cañete, (who also scored the winner in the friendly against Melbourne Victory and on loan from Boca Juniors), laid the ball off to the right for fellow substitute Francisco Pizarro to brilliantly chip it over the advancing Barovero for the winner. Catolica, coached by Argentine-born former Spain striker Juan Antonio Pizzi, went top of the group with four points from two matches, one point ahead of Velez and Caracas FC who defeated fellow Chilean side Unión Española 2-0. Caracas has three points in two matches and Unión has one in two.

In Group 8, Liga de Quito defeated visiting Independiente of Argentina 3-0 at home in the Ecuadorean capital to leave all four teams in Group Eight on three points from two games. Paul Ambrosi scored in the 10th and Miller Bolaños got a second in the 53rd with Patricio Urrutia wrapping up the scoring late in the half. Both teams have three points in two matches.

In Group 2, Gremio of Brazil defeated debutant Peruvian club Leon de Huánuco 2-0. Andre Lima and Bores scored for the Brazilians. Gremio has six

points, and Leon has three, after three matches.

In the Argentine city of Mendoza, Juan Manuel Olivera scored two first-half goals as Uruguayan club Peñarol had a 3-1 win at Godoy Cruz of Argentina on Tuesday to pick up its first points in the Copa Libertadores group stage.

The five-time champion Peñarol started in top gear when Olivera opened the scoring in the first minute just after kick-off and added a second in the 42nd after Ruben Ramirez' 30th-minute equalizer for Godoy Cruz. Luis Aguilar got Peñarol's third goal after a breakaway in the 68th.

Aguilar made the game safe with the Uruguayan club's third goal, breaking from a Godoy Cruz corner and taking Alejandro Martinuccio's pass before lifting the ball over Torrico.

In Venezuela, Argentine coach Américo Gallego had an ideal debut in charge of 1991 Libertadores champion Colo-Colo. Ezequiel Miralles slid the ball under the goalkeeper for Colo Colo's opener after Esteban Paredes defence-splitting pass in the 21st minute.

Miralles scored a second from a corner just before half time and laid on the pass for World Cup forward Paredes to score the Chilean club's third goal on a

counter in the 71st.

Lucas Wilchez gave Colo Colo a four-goal lead in the 83rd minute, with two late goals from Táchira substitute Julio Gutierrez making no difference to the final result.

The win moved Colo Colo to three points in Group 5, while Táchira has one point. Santos of Brazil hosted Paraguay's Cerro Porteño in the same group on Wednesday with a 1-1 draw. A late penalty from Roberto Nanni rescued a valuable point at the Vila Belmiro in Sao Paulo.

In the 54th minute, former Brazil international Elano put Santos ahead with a well taken penalty after Zé Eduardo was fouled by visiting goalkeeper Diego Barreto.

However, despite dominating possession, the locals were unable to add the crucial second goal and were punished deep into injury-time when referee Hector Baldassi pointed to the spot following Edú Dracena's clumsy foul on Freddy Bareiro.

Nanni's composed spot-kick keeps Cerro top of Group Five, while Santos remains in third without a win in their two opening games.

In Group Three, America beat Brazilian league champions



Universidad Catolica players embrace teammate Lucas Pratto after scoring an early goal in their come-from-behind win away to Velez Sarsfield last Thursday.

Fluminense 1-0 thanks to Daniel Marquez' 71st minute strike. The 25-year-old calmly slotted home for the winner from close range following a fantastic defence splitting pass from Argentinean Daniel Montenegro.

While in Montevideo, impressive Argentine outfit Argentinos Juniors beat Nacional 1-0 at the Estadio Gran Parque Central. The game's only goal came in the 21st minute when Franco Neill punished a terrible error from goalkeeper Leonardo Burián.

With three games played, Argentinos lead the way with seven points, followed by America in second with six. Languishing in third just two points, Fluminense now face a real struggle to qualify for the next round.

In other games, Cruzeiro remains top of Group Seven after drawing 0-0 with Deportes Tolima in Colombia, while San Luis and Once Caldas drew 1-1.

Balkan Wrap with Alex Milic

Serbia

The Serbian SuperLiga finally resumed play following the winter break with both arch rivals Red Star and Partizan securing three points.

Partizan overcame Indjija away 3:1 with a double to new signing Ghanaian international Prince Tagoe. The black and whites dominated ball possession and took advantage of sloppy defending to take the lead through Tagoe but only a few moments later it was Partizan's defence that let in Davidov for the equalising goal. Ivica Iliev made the most of another error in the Indjija defence and Tagoe sealed the victory with thirty minutes remaining.

Robert Prosinecki's reign as Red Star manager was a happy one as the red and whites defeated Smederevo 1:0 through a Kadu penalty on the stroke of half time. The match was played in front of 20,000 fans at the Marakana stadium which welcomed its legend Prosinecki. The Croat was however not pleased with his sides performance and demands more on the technical side of play.

Vojvodina kept up the pace with the front two with a win away to Jagodina 2:1. Georgian international Merabashvili opened the scoring for Vojvodina with a 30th minute penalty which was cancelled out only moments later by Djenic who levelled the scores. With less than twenty minutes remaining Ilic scored the winner for the Novi Sad club.



Kadu scored the winner in Prosinicki's debut

Croatia

Hajduk Split cut the gap at the top to four points as they defeated Zadar away in the Dalmatian derby 2:0 with second half goals to Andric and Ljubicic. League leaders Dinamo Zagreb played out a miserable goalless draw with Slaven Belupo at the Maksimir Stadium. In other

matches Split defeated Cibalia 2:1 to leap in front of the Vinkovci club in third place. Bottom of the table Hrvatski Dragovoljac surprised Varteks 3:2. Zagreb won away to Inter 2:0, Osijek defeated Istra 2:1 while Sibenik and Lokomotiva drew 0:0 and there was also no goals in Rijeka as the home side drew with Karlovac

Croatia			
	P	GD	Pts
1 Dinamo	20	+32	49
2 Hajduk	20	+26	44
3 Split	20	+10	33
4 Cibalia	20	+9	31
5 Inter Zprešic	20	-2	29
6 Varazdin	20	-3	28
7 Karlovac	20	0	27
8 Osijek	20	+1	26
9 Rijeka	20	-7	26
10 Slaven Belupo	20	-1	25
11 Zagreb	20	-3	25
12 Zadar	20	-3	24
13 Lokomotiva	20	-10	23
14 Sibenik	20	-4	20
15 Istra 1961	20	-15	18
16 Hrvatski dragovoljac	20	-30	13

Serbia			
	P	GD	Pts
1. Partizan	16	44:12	43
2. Crvena zvezda	16	22:8	38
3. Vojvodina	16	25:6	35
4. Rad	16	25:9	31
5. Sloboda Sevojno	16	21:19	24
6. Spartak	16	15:12	22
7. Javor	16	13:13	22
8. Smederevo	16	16:16	20
9. Jagodina	16	14:15	20
10. OFK Beograd	16	13:15	19
11. BSK	16	10:20	18
12. Borac	16	8:19	14
13. Indija	16	14:24	13
14. Metalac	16	11:25	12
15. Hajduk	16	11:22	9
16. Cukaricki	16	5:32	4

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Q. Who will play in this Sunday's Hyundai A-League Grand Final?



John Watkiss

BLAST FROM THE PAST



With Roy Hay

The Soccerroos' elegant all-rounder

WHEN that football tragic, André Krüger, organised a poll to determine Australia's team of the millennium in 2000 through a mailing list of similarly inclined people one of the key midfield positions went, not surprisingly, to Johnny Warren with 11.9 per cent of the vote, but in second place was one of his closest friends and fellow Socceroo, John Watkiss, with 11.7 per cent. Watkiss might have polled just as well had he been nominated as a defender or a striker, for he was capable of playing in any outfield position. I happened to mention John Watkiss to one of my correspondents the other day and he replied 'I have never heard of him.' So who was John Watkiss?

He was born in Wolverhampton in England in 1941 and came to Australia with his family while he was very young. His father, Joe, ran a scrap metal firm and the family brought their love of football to Edward Street in Botany. The Watkiss and Warren families became very close and the two Johns were spotted by Cec Barlow who was a scout for the Canterbury team. Watkiss made his senior debut in 1957 coached by 'Uncle Joe' Vlasits who was determined to give youth a chance. Canterbury joined the breakaway New South Wales Federation of Soccer Clubs that year and won the league in 1957 and the Grand Final in 1958.

In 1963 he moved to APIA and was an immediate success there, helping the club to the first division championship and victory in the Grand Final in 1964. In 1965 APIA came third but won the final, beating St George again.

Watkiss moved to Hakoah in 1969 where he was a mainstay of the side until 1975. He helped Hakoah to the championship in 1970 and 1971 and again in 1973 and 1974.

He transferred to Sutherland as a player in his first two seasons, and then player-coach in 1977 and 1978. In 1978 Sutherland won the Grand Final after a replay with Croatia Sydney. So at each club he played for he achieved success for the team and his versatility was a key to this contribution throughout. In all he appeared in ten grand finals.

He was first capped for Australia in 1965 scoring twice in



He flies through the air with the greatest of ease. John Watkiss winning the ball for APIA in 1968. Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.

games against Chelsea when it toured that year. He was in the team which lost to North Korea as Australia tried to qualify for the World Cup in England in 1966 in a bizarre campaign in which what should have been warm-up games were played after the critical qualifiers. In 1966 he played for New South Wales and Australia against AS Roma, and all three games for the Soccerroos versus Scotland

in 1967. In 1969 he took part in the World Cup qualifiers against Japan, South Korea, Rhodesia and Israel, as the Soccerroos came within touching distance of reaching Mexico. By 1973 he was reaching the veteran stage but he played in the two World Cup qualifying games against Iran and the first match against South Korea. He was a member of the Socceroo squad in Germany in 1974 and played in one

of the pre-tournament matches but did not see any game time in the three finals against East and West Germany and Chile. In all he had 31 caps for Australia and scored four goals.

He won the NSW Rothmans Gold Medal twice, in 1971 and again in 1977. He is a member of the Australian Football Hall of Fame.

Tall, strong and very good in the air, Watkiss was the



John Watkiss uses his strength to get a cross away for APIA against Hakoah in 1966. Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.



John Watkiss wins a heading duel with Frank Upton of Chelsea when they toured Australia in 1965. Source: Soccer News from Les Shorrocks collection, Deakin University Library.

quintessential team player and never aspired to the public profile of his good friend Warren. Johnny Warren said he was the best player Australia ever produced—the best all-rounder, for he could play anywhere. Warren even wondered whether he might have been a good goalkeeper.

Probably his most outstanding individual effort came in 1964 when he scored five goals for APIA against St George in the

Grand Final in Sydney. Warren was playing for St George at the time and in the lead up matches experimented with having himself hypnotised, so after the final there was a lot of hilarity at his expense that this time he had been hypnotised by John Watkiss.

My thanks to John and Judy Watkiss for help with the preparation of this column.

kissfm.com.au

The Vibration Continues

Saxon Sports EPL Comp Round 6 and 7 Wrap Up

WE'RE just over half way at the conclusion of round 6 and things are really starting to heat up, with every team playing each other once, they know what they're up against when it comes to playing them again!

Wolverhampton met Chelsea in the Round 6 opener, this was promised to be one of the matches of the season, but with Chelsea not having their full squad available it was always going to be hard to overcome an in-form Wolverhampton!

This certainly showed and it looked like Chelsea were always 1 step behind throughout the 30 minutes, ending up losing 6-10. Well played Wolverhampton!

'Match of the round' would have to go to Manchester City v West Ham, who played a very intense game only to

share the points in the end. It seems that Manchester City like the close ones, having played out 2 draws out of the 6 games so far.

Other results for the round were: Blackburn 5 v Everton 0, Fulham 11 v Liverpool 2, Birmingham 5 v Newcastle 0 and Tottenham 12 v Arsenal 5.

Round 7 began with West Ham taking on good mates Arsenal. With pride and bragging points amongst friends on the line, both teams were giving it their all. First half was a tough one but West Ham ended up running away with it in the second half, final result 7-3.

Everton notched up their first win of the season beating Fulham 10-9.

Blackburn v Newcastle as this weeks thrille, with 2nd last Newcastle

giving everything against top placed Blackburn (who haven't lost a game). In the end though, Blackburn came out on top, defeating Newcastle 5-3.

Chelsea got back on the winners list after last weeks disappointing loss to Wolverhampton, beating Tottenham 11-9 tonight.

Other results for the round were: Birmingham 8 v Liverpool 5 and Manchester City 9 v Wolverhampton 5.

Group A										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
1 Chelsea	7	6	0	1	76	45	24			
2 Wolverhampton	6	5	0	1	41	26	20			
3 Manchester City	7	4	2	1	49	43	20			
4 West Ham	7	3	1	3	42	33	14			
5 Arsenal	7	3	1	3	40	39	14			
6 Tottenham	7	2	0	5	61	49	8			

Group B										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
1 Blackburn	7	7	0	0	68	20	28			
2 Birmingham	7	5	0	2	51	26	20			
3 Fulham	7	3	0	4	49	62	12			
4 Liverpool	7	3	0	4	37	52	12			
5 Newcastle	7	2	0	5	33	47	8			
6 Everton	7	1	0	6	33	64	4			

WAG OF THE WEEK



Cabau Yolante van Kasbergen Age:25
Insignificant other: Wesley Sneijder (Inter Milan)

Couch Potato Dept.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEST



SBS ONE
Monday March 7th,
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:30 pm The World Game

SBS TWO
Monday March 7th
9:30 pm The World Game

Wednesday 9 March
SBS ONE
6.30am - LIVE Round of 16 2nd Leg
Barcelona v Arsenal

SBS TWO
11.00pm - DELAYED Round of 16 2nd Leg -
Shakhtar Donetsk v Roma

Thursday 10 March
SBS ONE
6.30am - LIVE (Round of 16 2nd Leg)
Schalke v Valencia

SBS TWO
8.30pm - DELAYED (Round of 16 2nd Leg)
Tottenham v AC Milan



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
WEEK 30
Tue Mar 8 Blackpool v Chelsea 6.55 am
Thu Mar 10 Everton v Birmingham 6.55 am

WEEK 31
No matches scheduled on March 12-15 due to FA Cup fixtures in England

WEEK 32
Sat Mar 19 Tottenham v West Ham 11.40 pm
Sun Mar 20 Manchester United v Bolton 1.55 am
Sun Mar 20 Aston Villa v Wolves 1.55 am Viewers Choice
Sun Mar 20 Stoke v Newcastle 1.55 am Viewers Choice
Sun Mar 20 West Brom v Arsenal 1.55 am Viewers Choice
Sun Mar 20 Wigan v Birmingham 1.55 am Viewers Choice
Sun Mar 20 Everton v Fulham 4.25 am
Sun Mar 20 Blackburn v Blackpool 10.30 am (DELAY)
Mon Mar 21 Sunderland v Liverpool 12.25 am
Mon Mar 21 Chelsea v Manchester City 2.55 am

A-LEAGUE
Sunday March 13
Grand Final
Brisbane v Central Coast/Gold Coast
4.30 pm

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Tue March 15
Norwich v Bristol City
6.30 am

FOX SPORTS FC
Tue March 8
8.30 pm



Tuesday 08th March
10:30 pm World Football News
11:15 pm Liverpool TV Liverpool V Manchester United

Wednesday 09th March
06:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show Matchday 28
06:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights Matchday 25
07:30 am World Football News (Rpt)
08:00 am Liverpool TV (Rpt) Liverpool V Manchester United

Thursday 10th March
06:00 am Serie A (Rpt) Matchday 28:
Inter Milan V Genoa
10:45 pm Arsenal TV Barcelona V Arsenal
(Champions League - Return Leg)

Friday 11th March
01:45 am Serie A (Rpt) Matchday 28: Lecce V Roma
03:45 am The Serie A Highlights Show (Rpt) Matchday 28
04:15 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights (Rpt) Matchday 25

Saturday 12th March
03:00 am Arsenal TV (Rpt) Barcelona V Arsenal
(Champions League - Return Leg)

Sunday 13th March
01:25 am LIVE: Bundesliga Matchday 26:
Bayern Munich V Hamburg

Monday 14th March
01:00 am LIVE: Football: Serie A Matchday 29:
Roma V Lazio
01:00 pm Serie A Matchday 29: Brescia V Inter Milan



Monday 7th March
1:45am Serie A – Sampdoria vs Cesena
3:25am Bundesliga – Hamburg vs St Pauli LIVE
6:40am Serie A – Lazio vs Palermo LIVE
9:00am Serie A – Chievo vs Parma
10:45am Serie A – Udinese vs Bari
2:15pm Bundesliga – Freiburg vs Werder Bremen
4:00pm Serie A – Fiorentina vs Catania
5:45pm Serie A – Napoli vs Brescia

FA CUP QUARTER-FINALS EXCLUSIVE TO SETANTA SPORTS AUSTRALIA
(All Times EDT)

BIRMINGHAM CITY vs BOLTON WANDERERS
Saturday 12th March
LIVE 11:40pm (KO 11:45pm) – Replays 8:45am & 7:30pm

MANCHESTER UNITED VS ARSENAL
Sunday 13th March 2011
LIVE 4am (KO 4:15am) – Replay 10:30am & 5:30pm

STOKE CITY VS WEST HAM UNITED
Monday 14th March 2011
LIVE 0:30am (KO 1am) – Replay 7:30pm

MANCHESTER CITY vs READING
Monday 14th March 2011
LIVE 3:40am (KO 3:45am) – Replay 9:15pm

FA CUP QUARTER-FINALS HIGHLIGHTS SHOW
Monday 14th March 2011
DELAY 11pm

Tuesday 8th March
1:00am Serie A – Bologna vs Cagliari
6:55am SPL – Dundee United vs Aberdeen LIVE
9:00am Portuguese Liga – Braga vs Benfica

Thursday 10th March
9:25am Copa Libertadores – Penarol vs LDU Quito LIVE



The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am

Radio Stars

Global Football Show
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FULL NAME: Steven Pace
BIRTHPLACE: Melbourne
BIRTH DATE: 06/03/1983
HEIGHT: 186cm
WEIGHT: 80 kg
MARRIED: Yes
CAR: You don't want to know
NICKNAME: Pacey/ Ice man (cuz I'm always injured)
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Victory/ Preston
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Vic squad 13s, 14's 15's 16's, AIS 2000
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Dennis Bergkamp
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Fabregas
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Mathew "the fish" Foschini
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Kevin Muscat (he needs to harden up a bit though)
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Tim Cahill
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Playing Juventus at The Dome in front of 50,000 people
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: World cup Qualifier Aus v Iran (I was ball boy)
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: Any goal I score against Lou Acevski at training
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Kicking the ball around with my bro's at the age of 4
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Anything Leigh Tsamerkis says. (Well he thinks he's funny anyway)
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Not getting more of a run at Victory
WORST INJURY: There isn't one I haven't had, they are all bad
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: All strikers are difficult to control
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Oakleigh
SUPERSTITIONS: Don't have any
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Cereal, light lunch (tuna and veggies)
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Big biceps
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Injuries
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Arsenal
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: AFL, Golf
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Roger Federer
FAVOURITE FOODS: Anything my wife cooks
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Denzel Washintogton
HOBBIES: Golf/ fishing
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Melati Koh Samui
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: My bed
IDEAL DATE: My wife
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Entourage/ Bear Grills / Seinfeld
FAVOURITE MUSIC: 80's
FAVOURITE FILM: Scarface
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Don't own any
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: That I have a left peg
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Family
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Injuries
FOOTBALL AMBITION: Probably getting to old for one of those but winning a championship with Hume would be great
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? : Dennis Bergkamp
YOU'RE TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL: Roar
YOU'RE TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S VPL: Hume City



PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Hume City FC
STEVEN PACE

LONDON CALLING



With Adam North in the UK

ONCE again Harry Redknapp has led Tottenham to a great season. Looking likely to be in their first ever Champions League season, in the top five in the Premier League, and producing consistently good performances against the league's biggest names.

And yet, if reports are to be believed, Redknapp is getting ready to ditch his entire strike force in the summer. Defoe, Crouch, Keane and Pavlyuchenko all look like they may not be at White Hart Lane next year, with Redknapp ready to introduce a completely new front line attack in their place.

Now if any of you are regular readers of this column, and let's face it you really should be, you would know that I'm not the biggest fan of Harry Redknapp. And that's not just because he is the current Spurs manager. For someone who gets lauded as being a really competent manager he has shown little ability at the very top level of football, and he has thus far shown an inability to perform at any club that don't provide him with a vast amount of funds to constantly alter his squads.

As I have mentioned before, it may not just be coincidence that several of his previous clubs, most notably Portsmouth and Southampton, found themselves in deep financial trouble during and after his term at the respective clubs, and I have on more than one occasion suggested that this could be a problem at Spurs as well.

It would be ridiculous of me to suggest that the job he is doing at Tottenham isn't outstanding, as he is slowly turning them into one of the real big boys of English football. In fact only a couple of months ago some pundits were suggesting that Spurs may be able to make a run at the league title; a prediction which has since ebbed away but was

at least an indication of how serious people had been taking Redknapp's club as major players in English football.

However the concern comes from the fact that Harry rarely seems happy with the squad that he has. He is constantly talking about bringing in new players to replace those he has, which is many cases appears, at least the me, to be a little redundant. He is seen to be a bit of a 'wheeler-dealer', which basically means he can find players of a good quality for a little amount of money, and conversely he can offload the players he doesn't want for more money than they are probably worth.

To be honest though, I'm not really sure that is the case, as whilst at Spurs he has already spent a considerable amount of money. And that is at a club that spent over £140 million on players in the two years before he took over. And it now appears that over the summer Redknapp will be looking to spend yet more money to bring more players to what is already one of the deepest squads in the Premier League.

Now it appears that Harry will be looking to supplement a rumoured £30 million transfer budget with the sale of all four recognised forwards on the clubs books.

If Redknapp is ready to sell his entire front line, it's pretty easy to see why. So far between them they have scored just eight Premier League goals, less than the strike forces of their title rivals. In fact, Spurs have scored only 38 goals in the league this season, and 17 of those have been netted by Bale and Van Der Vaart. Redknapp obviously sees that a new front line is a must if they are to become real title contenders.

For discussion's sake let's suggest that Spurs will offload all their strikers in the summer. Keane is already signed to go to West Ham if they stay up, so that's £6 million that Tottenham

Harry Redknapp's Ever Revolving Door



With a nudge and a wink, proper geezer Harry Redknapp knows the real deal..

ham will get. And it is being estimated that between them the sale of Defoe, Crouch, and Pavlyuchenko will raise over £30 million for the club.

But would all this movement actually be good for the club? Even if they do get over £40 million as a combined amount for all four players, which I do not believe they will get, will they actually be able to assemble a strike force which is better than what they already have. Names like Llorente at Bilbao and Rossi at Villarreal have been touted as possible signings, however one has to question if they are what Spurs need to make them genuine title contenders.

It is a pandemic which is affecting all of football, but it looks like Tottenham are trying to achieve success right now rather than slowly building and growing in a natural way. As with a lot of big clubs, one has to question where are the younger players coming through to challenge the established stars? It is no surprise that that the two teams cur-

rently contesting the Premier League title are the two teams which have a history of bringing through young players rather than always spending big in the transfer market.

Someone that Redknapp should learn from is Rafa Benitez, former Liverpool manager. There are comparisons between the two, as both had decent squads, yet both were constantly complaining that they needed more players, even when it was clear that they did not. The ever changing Liverpool squad found it impossible to contend over a period of time as they had no consistency, and I believe that this could be the case for Spurs as well.

As good as Spurs have been under Redknapp, this could be the start of a slippery slope for both the squad and for Harry Redknapp as their manager. They will not win the Champions League this season, and they may very well fail to get in the top four in the league to maintain their status as a Champions League side. This

means that they may not be able to keep hold of their two best players Bale and Van Der Vaart. And if Redknapp changes the squad as he is rumoured to be doing, they may also struggle for consistency next season as well. And with Tottenham spending more and more money, yet not recouping it all as they aren't achieving as much as they want to both domestically and on a European stage, then they may begin to find themselves in financial trouble.

Of course it is pure hyperbole of me to suggest that Tottenham will find themselves in serious trouble over the next few years, as I think they'll be ok, but it should at least be a worry for Spurs fans that it is not completely beyond the realms of possibility.

I do believe that if Redknapp continues his revolving door policy at North London's second biggest club then they will continue to struggle to challenge the likes of Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal on a consistent basis, and I

cannot see them winning the league any time soon.

One thing that I am certain about is that it would be absolutely crazy of Redknapp to get rid of his entire front line in the summer, and there is no guarantee that he would be able to bring in suitable replacements for each player he lets go. They have underperformed, but let's remember that it was Redknapp who brought some of them in, so who's to say that the guys he replaces them with will be any better.

To flog what is becoming the deadest of horses, what Spurs really need is a consistent squad, with little alterations in one of two positions, yet I just do not see Redknapp as the man to do this.

He will continue to operate a revolving door policy, and I really cannot see Tottenham reaching the upper echelon of English football until either the revolving door shuts, or until Harry Redknapp gets shoved out of it.

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LONDON CALLING



With Leroy Robinson in the UK

KENNY Dalglish's reign as Liverpool manager was only ever meant to be temporary – meaning until the end of this season.

Of course football is like life, the only constant is change, and there have been calls for the Scot to take over the reins on a permanent basis, after a pick-up in form for the Anfield club since Roy Hodgson was sacked in January of this year.

In asking if the man some fans call 'King Kenny' should be handed the job permanently, London Calling doesn't think it is courting controversy. Yes, Dalglish's tenure has been more or less trouble-free and, the 3-1 reverse at West Ham aside, their current form (last six games) before the weekend's fixtures was only inferior to Arsenal and Chelsea.

There is of course no telling if the return of King Kenny was just mere coincidence but it could be argued that Shane Warne could have done a better job than Roy Hodgson, a man known for negative tactics away from home and his almost neurotic obsession with the strengths of the opposition rather than his own team.

Yet Dalglish is not Shane Warne, and therefore credit should be given to the Scot for dragging the club to its feet. But then again, when you're on the canvas the only way is up.

As canny as the American owners' decision to appoint Dalglish was, they should not offer him the job full time, or else the Scot should be canny enough to refuse it.

Kenny just doesn't need the hassle of the post full-time. Yes, it may seem peachy right now, because his stock is high, but what happens if the team goes through another bad patch and finds itself looking up the table? He doesn't have a double to come along and rescue them. Some guys are cut out to be caretakers, to steady the ship temporarily.

But that is just a side issue as to why he shouldn't be the full-time manager. When Dalglish last took charge of Liverpool permanently they were the best team in

the country. Now, 20 or so years later, they are far removed from that status. Can Dalglish cope with mediocrity? He didn't at Newcastle. Some people have applauded the signing of Steve Clark as coach. Why? Should a man who wasn't good enough for West Ham be at Liverpool? I have nothing against Kenny, but I've always had a problem with the Messiah complex at football clubs. It gets them nowhere. Trying to recreate the past invariably fails (like it continually did at Newcastle - Keegan, McDonald, etc) because you can't recreate the same conditions or players. Kenny had Barnes, Beardsley and Aldridge, now he has Gerrard, Kuyt and Carroll. Anyone spot the difference in quality? Past performance as a coach usually means very little and when that experience was garnered during an era when TV's weighed as much as a pregnant elephant it means even less.

Of course it also works the other way, there's nothing to say he can't be successful but why not use this opportunity to appoint a long-term successor?

Which leads to another argument: There are better candidates for the club to choose from. Frank Rijkaard is still the first name on my list. He ticks all the boxes in terms of success and speaks English too. Yes, there's no guarantee he will work out, and maybe he will be worse than Hodgson, but if we're talking about track records then there should be no debate.

Liverpool fans seem to want Dalglish because they see things in more emotive terms than I. As far as they are concerned Kenny loves the club and is 'Liverpool through and through'. All of this is true and, though it helps when deciding a candidate, the overriding factors are past success and experience. Yes, Kenny won titles with Blackburn and Liverpool, but Rafa Benitez won a UCL title with Liverpool and still loves the club; does that entitle him to be considered for the manager's job? Such sentiments are totally meaningless because they cannot be measured; only success can be measured and Rijkaard is a perfect fit.

Should King Kenny Abdicate?



Two Scots who have dominated the English game for the best part of the last 30 years, Sir Alex Ferguson and King Kenny Dalglish.

Liverpool is a couple of central defenders, a left back and a creative wide player away from being a top four side. But that is only IF Andy Carroll becomes the number nine striker that they (over) paid £35 million for. In many respects Kenny hasn't done enough to convince me Liverpool are a top four side right now.

Their current form is good but overall, despite a win at Chelsea, he cannot be accused of solving their away form; top four teams do not lose at both Blackpool and West Ham. That away form is something that will need to be sorted out if they are to finish in the top four next season, preferably by a new coach with fresh ideas.

The time is right for new managerial blood at Liverpool, not a transfusion of the same old bloodline.

The World According To Sir Alex Ferguson
POOR old Sir Alex Ferguson. He's like Groundhog Day. He

wins, he's happy. He loses, he spits out the dummy, throws a tantrum to the press, and goes off into the corner to suck his thumb. He's not the only one, but one would think at his age he would know better and just accept that poor decisions are part of the game.

He was true to form last Tuesday after the Chelsea match.

"You hope you get a really strong referee in games like this [at Stamford Bridge]. It was a major game for both clubs and you want a fair referee, you know?" Ferguson told MUTV.

"You want a strong referee, anyway, and we didn't get that. I don't know why he's [Martin Atkinson] got the game. I must say that, when I saw who was refereeing it, I feared the worst."

His comments came a few days after Wayne Rooney was a recipient of weak officiating, when he elbowed an opponent off the ball, and was given a pat on the back by referee Mark Clattenburg (no lie! – see the footage) instead of a red card.

Quite rightly, Ferguson's comments were received by the UK media with scorn. However, on the weekend of one of the biggest games in European football – Liverpool vs. Manchester United - it would be remiss of London Calling to let the matter rest at that, so I'm going to decipher The SAF Code, and tell you what he (allegedly) really means.

"You hope you get a really strong referee in games like this." (The other team is liable to cheat because they have a lot of foreign players. We need a referee who is colour blind and can see things from a red perspective.)

"It was a major game for both clubs and you want a fair referee, you know?" (Martin Atkinson isn't a Manchester United fan so having him officiate our games is unacceptable. I've spoken to my friends at the FA and they've kept his officiating of our matches to the bare minimum.)

"You want a strong referee, anyway, and we didn't get that.

I don't know why he's got the game. I must say that, when I saw who was refereeing it, I feared the worst." (Please God make it so that Mark Clattenburg can referee all our big games. You see we nearly always lose when Atkinson is in charge for these types of games and I'm fed up of it. I'd like to blame the players for not being good enough but I'm a manager and by implication that comes back on me. Also we're not supposed to do that are we because it's better to blame defeat on things beyond our control?)

Thankfully, the usually gutless bureaucrats at the FA have grown a pair of private parts and charged Ferguson for his post match comments to MUTV. They need to ban him from the touchline for four matches to have any credibility, yet because of his stature within the game he'll probably get half that. Next time he should keep the dummy in before slating officials.



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Battling Sunderland deny Arsenal

EPL
MANCHESTER United were dealt a harsh and somewhat undeserved blow in their hunt for a record breaking 19th title in their 2-1 defeat at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday morning.

Manchester United demonstrated their championship winning quality for the majority of the game, before reacting poorly to a well taken David Luiz goal and some inconsistent refereeing from Martin Atkinson, who failed to send Luiz off for two blatant off the ball body checks after previously being cautioned.

United's failure to convert one of their clearer chances into goals, after Rooney had given them the lead with a stunning strike, proved costly when the otherwise impressive Chris Smalling's outstretched boot, which made no contact with the ball, tripped Zhirkov. Lampard blasted home the resultant penalty to send the Chelsea faithful into raptures and leave United bemoaning what might have been.

In Saturday's Premier League action, Arsenal failed to capitalize on United's loss in midweek when Wenger's men failed to overcome a resilient Sunderland side. Sunderland's stand in keeper, Simon Mignolet, proved the hero for the Black Cats, producing a string of fine saves to keep a well deserved clean sheet.

It was a somewhat typical performance from Arsenal, who dominated the game with finishing with 63% of possession, but once again failed to find that killer instinct.

Wenger was left fuming at the decision to disallow Arshavin's goal for offside when he appeared to be level with the last Sunderland defender. Danny Welbeck almost made an impressive comeback from injury when his shot on the turn was only just turned wide by Szczesny, denying a goal that would have been a real sucker punch to the team who most consider to be United's only realistic contenders for the Premier League title this season.

Arsenal's misfortune was City's gain however; as they managed a rather fortuitous 1-0 win of Premier League strugglers Wigan.

It took a rather embarrassing mishap from Wigan goalkeeper, Al-Habsi, for City to score the eventual winner. In a game of such fine margins, it was perhaps not surprising that it took a mistake to settle the contest, but that will be of little consolation to Wigan, who will feel they deserved at least a point.

Possession of the football was keenly contested and Wigan took more shots than their opponents but it wasn't enough.

The loss of Kolo Toure to a club imposed suspension after he failed a drug test this week did not seem to make too much of a difference, however there were glimpses that City might miss him in coming weeks, particularly when the City defense failed to properly clear the ball, allowing McCarthy a glorious chance in the first half from 10 yards which he somehow spurned.

The win puts City back within four points of Arsenal, though they have played a game more.

At the other end of the table, there were massive wins for West Ham and West Brom as four of this season's prime relegation can-



Arsenal miss the chance to close the gap on Premier League leaders Manchester United to one point as they are held to a goalless draw by resilient Sunderland at the Emirates Stadium.

didates faced off. West Ham put on another very impressive show, dispatching of Stoke 3-0, where the impressive new boys Demba Ba and Thomas Hitzelsperger were both on the score sheet again.

West Brom on the other hand managed a 3-1 win at St. Andrews to give Roy Hodgson his first win as West Brom manager. Mulumbu's 47th minute opener was cancelled out immediately by Beausejour, before West Brom ran riot and closed out the game with goals from James Morrison and Paul Scharner.

The results mean that both West Ham and West Brom have been temporarily hoisted from the relegation zone, whilst Birmingham now sit in 18th with two games in hand on both sides.

Bolton Wanderers temporarily usurped Liverpool in 5th place with a hard fought win in an exciting game at the Reebok against Aston Villa. Darren Bent put Villa 2-1 to the good in the 64th minute before Villa won a penalty to seal the points in the 70th minute.

It wasn't to be however as Ashley Young hit his penalty straight at Jaaskelainen. It proved the turning point of the match as Gary Cahill equalized with his second of the game only five minutes later before Klasnic ensured Bolton took all the points in the 86th minute.

In other midtable action, Fulham and Everton enjoyed wins over Blackburn and Newcastle respectively. An entertaining fixture at Craven Cottage was decided when Mark Clattenburg provided another moment of controversy when he awarded a match winning penalty to Fulham in the 89th minute. Zamora took the penalty clinically to somewhat harshly steal all three points from Blackburn.

Everton continued to show signs of resurgence with a good performance at St James' Park, when Leon Osman and Phil Jagielka scored in the 31st and 36th minutes respectively to nullify Leon Best's 23rd minute opener.

Bundesliga
BORRUSSIA Monchengladbach, for whom Matthew Leckie will be playing for next season, kept their hopes of top flight survival alive with a spirited display which saw them run out 2-0 winners over much fancied TSG Hoffenheim.

The win puts Gladbach only three points off survival but for Hoffenheim it represents the end

of any realistic hopes of Europa League football next season.

Eintracht Frankfurt could not manage a result against relegation threatened Kaiserslauten at home, playing out a bore draw in front of 49,400 people at the Commerzbank Arena. Frankfurt only managed six attempts on goal, failing to hit the target once.

For Kaiserslauten, only Adam Hlousek and Lakic could trouble Ralf Fahrmann in Frankfurt's goal in a forgettable match, which leaves Kaiserslauten in the relegation zone on goal difference.

St Pauli found themselves on the wrong end of a 5-0 drubbing at the hands of an impressive Nurnberg outfit. The win puts Nurnberg right in the hunt for a Europa League spot next season, with a much needed boost for their goal difference. Christian Eigler proved the hero as he finished the game with four goals, all scored after Phillipp Wollscheid's 3rd minute opener.

League leaders Borussia Dortmund further emphasized their dominance with a 1-0 win on Saturday morning over Cologne, with Robert Lewandowski's 44th minute goal proving the difference. Mitchell Langerak was sat on the bench but took no part in proceedings.

The pressure was heaped on Louis Van Gaal and Felix Magath as both saw their sides,

Bayern Munich and Schalke respectively, slump to defeats in uninspiring fashion. Hannover 96 put three past Munich putting Munich's Champions League ambitions firmly in doubt, whilst a Kuzmanovic penalty for Stuttgart was enough to kill off Schalke's hopes of European football next season.

La Liga
REAL Madrid kept the pressure on Barcelona with a 7-0 thrashing of Malaga at the Estadio Bernabeu on Friday morning.

Cristiano Ronaldo managed another hat trick, but was injured in the process, putting him out of contention for two weeks.

That pressure was soon allayed when Barcelona responded with a clinical, if below standard, performance to see off Real Zaragoza at the Nou Camp. Seydou Keita's opener in the 43rd minute did the job for Barcelona who are now 10 points ahead of fierce rivals Real Madrid having played a game more.

In other La Liga fixtures, Atletico Madrid put Villarreal to the sword with a fantastic performance which

saw them run out 3-1 winners.

Jose Antonio Reyes opened the scoring with a fantastic effort in the 5th minute, which was cancelled out by another impressive finish by Giuseppe Rossi 10 minutes before half time.

Atletico proved too strong though, and second half goals from Diego Forlan and Sergio Aguero finished the game off. Although morale raising for Atletico, they are still 12 points away from Villarreal, who currently occupy the final Champions League spot.

Valencia on the other hand strengthened their grip on third spot and automatic qualification for the Champions' League group stage with a 2-1 win over 10th placed Mallorca.

Mallorca took the lead in front of their home crowd with a penalty which was coolly converted by Ivan Ramis. It wasn't to be however, as Pablo Hernandez replied instantly two minutes later to equalize, before sealing the win in the 56th minute to complete his brace and snatch all three points for his side.

Serie A
AC Milan took a great step towards securing the Scudetto with a well fought 1-0 win over Juventus in Turin on Sunday morning.

A tepid affair looked set to finish with both sides sharing the spoils before Gennaro Gattuso came up with a real leader's goal in the 68th minute. Ibrahimovic chested the ball down to a poor Juventus clearance, presenting Gattuso with a golden opportunity which he took with a vengeance.

Luigi Delneri now has his work cut out if he is to keep his job in charge of Juventus, as they look set to miss out on continental football next season.

In the only other game to be played before the time of print, AS Roma took another win under new manager Vincenzo Montella, as they fought to a 2-1 win away at Lecce.

Roma were the better side for the majority of the game, and Mirko Vucinic gave Roma a deserved lead in the 32nd minute.

Lecce looked to have stolen a point when Giacomazzi scored an equalizer in the 75th minute; however the award of a late penalty for a handball against Munari was converted clinically by David Pizarro to live Roma's hopes of continental football next season.

UK Results

Barclays Premier League
Arsenal 0-0 Sunderland
Birmingham 1-3 West Brom
Bolton 3-2 Aston Villa
Fulham 3-2 Blackburn
Man City 1-0 Wigan
Newcastle 1-2 Everton
West Ham 3-0 Stoke

Npower Championship
Burnley 1-0 Crystal Palace
Cardiff 0-2 Ipswich
Coventry 1-4 Bristol City
Derby 0-0 Barnsley
Leeds 5-2 Doncaster
Norwich 1-1 Preston
Nott'm Forest 0-1 Hull
Portsmouth 1-0 Sheff Utd
QPR 1-0 Leicester
Reading 5-2 Middlesbrough
Scunthorpe 1-0 Swansea
Watford 1-0 Millwall

Npower League One
Bournemouth 3-0 Oldham
Brighton 4-3 Carlisle
Bristol Rovers 0-2 Dag & Red
Charlton 1-1 Tranmere
Colchester 0-2 Southampton
Hartlepool 3-0 Brentford
Leyton Orient 2-0 Notts County
Peterborough 3-0 Exeter
Rochdale 1-4 MK Dons
Sheff Wed 2-4 Plymouth
Swindon 0-0 Walsall
Yeovil 1-1 Huddersfield

Npower League Two
Cheltenham 0-3 Chesterfield
Crewe 4-1 Burton Albion
Gillingham 2-0 Bradford
Hereford 0-3 Bury
Lincoln City 0-0 Accrington Stanley
Morecambe 2-1 Southend
Northampton 2-3 Shrewsbury
Port Vale 2-1 Macclesfield
Rotherham 0-0 Barnet
Stockport 2-1 Oxford Utd
Torquay 2-0 Stevenage
Wycombe 2-2 Aldershot

Clydesdale Bank Premier League
Celtic 2-0 Hamilton
Hearts 0-2 Kilmarnock
Inverness CT 3-0 Motherwell
St Johnstone 1-1 Hibernian
Blue Square Bet Premier
Altrincham 1-1 Gateshead
Barrow 0-0 York | Report
Bath City 1-1 Kettering
Crawley Town 5-0 Histon
Darlington 1-0 Cambridge Utd
Eastbourne Boro 4-1 Southport
Grimsby 2-1 AFC Wimbledon
Luton 1-1 Kidderminster
Newport County 1-3 Fleetwood Town
Rushden & D'mnds 1-1 Hayes & Yeading
Tamworth 0-2 Mansfield
Wrexham 2-1 Forest Green

Scottish Football League Championship
First Division
Dunfermline 1-3 Morton
Partick Thistle 0-0 Dundee
Queen of South 0-2 Raith Rovers
Ross County 2-1 Falkirk
Stirling 3-4 Cowdenbeath

Scottish Football League Championship
Second Division
Airdrie Utd 0-5 Ayr
Alloa 1-3 East Fife
Brechin 3-1 Stenhousemuir
Dumbarton 0-3 Livingston
Peterhead 1-1 Forfar

Scottish Football League Championship
Third Division
Arbroath 2-1 Annan Athletic
Berwick 4-0 Elgin
East Stirling 1-2 Montrose
Queen's Park 4-0 Clyde
Stranraer 1-3 Albion

Blue Square Bet North
Blyth Spartans 0-1 Solihull Moors
Boston Utd 2-0 Droylsden
Corby 1-1 Worcester
Eastwood Town 2-1 Nuneaton
Gainsborough 1-3 Stalybridge
Guiseley 0-3 AFC Telford
Hinckley Utd 1-2 Workington
Redditch 0-1 Gloucester
Stafford Rangers 0-5 Hyde
Vauxhall Motors 0-2 Alfreton Town

Blue Square Bet South
Basingstoke 1-1 Lewes
Bishop's Stortford 0-4 Welling
Braintree Town 0-0 Staines Town
Dartford 3-0 Maidenhead Utd
Dorchester 3-1 Thurrock
Dover 1-0 Hampton & Richmond
Eastleigh 2-1 Chelmsford
Ebbsfleet United 2-2 Boreham Wood
Havant & W 2-0 Bromley
Weston-S-Mare 2-1 St Albans
Woking 1-1 Farnborough

EPL

	P	GD	Pts
1 Man Utd	28	35	60
2 Arsenal	28	30	57
3 Man City	29	20	53
4 Chelsea	27	25	48
5 Tottenham	27	7	47
6 Bolton	29	2	40
7 Liverpool	28	1	39
8 Sunderland	29	-2	38
9 Newcastle	29	3	36
10 Everton	28	0	36
11 Fulham	29	1	35
12 Stoke	29	-6	34
13 Aston Villa	29	-13	33
14 Blackburn	29	-12	32
15 Blackpool	28	-13	32
16 West Brom	29	-15	32
17 West Ham	29	-13	31
18 Birmingham	27	-12	30
19 Wolves	28	-15	28
20 Wigan	29	-23	27

Bundesliga

	P	GD	Pts
1 Borussia Dortmund	25	39	61
2 Bayer Leverkusen	25	19	49
3 Hannover 96	25	5	47
4 Bayern Munich	25	18	42
5 Mainz	24	7	40
6 Nuremberg	25	7	39
7 Hamburg	24	3	37
8 SC Freiburg	24	0	37
9 TSG Hoffenheim	25	4	33
10 Schalke 04	25	-1	30
11 Cologne	25	-12	29
12 Eintracht Frankfurt	25	-10	28
13 St Pauli	25	-16	28
14 Wolfsburg	25	-8	26
15 VfB Stuttgart	25	-4	25
16 FC Kaiserslautern	25	-9	25
17 Werder Bremen	24	-20	25
18 Borussia M'gladbach	25	-22	22

Bayer Leverkusen 3-0 Wolfsburg
Borussia M'gladbach 2-0 TSG Hoffenheim
Eintracht Frankfurt 0-0 FC Kaiserslautern
Hannover 96 3-1 Bayern Munich
Nuremberg 5-0 St Pauli
VfB Stuttgart 1-0 Schalke 04
Borussia Dortmund 1-0 Cologne

Serie A

	P	GD	Pts
1 AC Milan	28	30	61
2 Inter Milan	27	20	53
3 Napoli	27	16	52
4 Lazio	27	10	48
5 Udinese	27	19	47
6 Roma	28	4	46
7 Juventus	28	6	41
8 Palermo	27	1	40
9 Cagliari	27	5	38
10 Genoa	27	-2	35
11 Bologna	27	-5	35
12 Fiorentina	27	0	34
13 Chievo	27	-2	31
14 Sampdoria	27	-6	31
15 Catania	27	-11	29
16 Lecce	28	-19	28
17 Parma	27	-11	28
18 Cesena	27	-16	25
19 Brescia	27	-13	24
20 Bari	27	-26	16

Juventus 0-1 AC Milan
Lecce 1-2 Roma

Playing overnight
Sampdoria v Cesena
Bologna v Cagliari
Chievo v Parma
Fiorentina v Catania
Inter Milan v Genoa
Napoli v Brescia
Udinese v Bari
Lazio v Palermo

SPL


	P	GD	Pts
1 Celtic	28	44	67
2 Rangers	25	34	59
3 Hearts	28	17	55
4 Kilmarnock	28	9	42
5 Motherwell	29	-7	37
6 Inverness CT	29	2	36
7 Dundee Utd	25	-1	34
8 Hibernian	29	-14	32
9 St Johnstone	28	-16	32
10 Aberdeen	28	-14	31
11 St Mirren	27	-22	22
12 Hamilton	28	-32	15

La Liga

	P	GD	Pts
1 Barcelona	27	65	74
2 Real Madrid	26	43	64
3 Valencia	27	14	54
4 Villarreal	27	17	50
5 Espanyol	26	-3	40
6 Atletico Madrid	27	4	38
7 Athletic Bilbao	26	2	38
8 Sevilla	26	1	38
9 Real Sociedad	26	-5	35
10 Mallorca	27	-9	34
11 Getafe	26	-3	33
12 Racing	26	-12	30
13 Levante	26	-11	28
14 Deportivo	26	-14	28
15 Real Zaragoza	27	-15	27
16 Osasuna	26	-6	26
17 Hercules	26	-15	26
18 Sporting Gijon	26	-11	25
19 Malaga	26	-24	23
20 Almeria	26	-18	22

Atletico Madrid 3-1 Villarreal
Barcelona 1-0 Real Zaragoza
Mallorca 1-2 Valencia







V-LEAGUE

PREMIERSHIP

Round 17

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Records in sight for all to see in Black & White

By Peter Parthimos

**FC Collingwood 3
Hume FC 14**

UPDATE: FC Collingwood gets thumped 14 – 3 by Hume FC in a one sided affair and are certain to be playing in the State LEAGUE Championship next season.

It was 10 nil before FCC found the back of the net. As for Hume FC they look like firm candidates for a top 4 finish and a top place in the 2010-11 FOz CUP. 5 goals by inform utility Michael Dixon was enough to shatter the cellar dwellers

**CF Brunswick 5
Metropolitan FC 7**

UPDATE: In what seemed run of the mill and another 3 points to Metropolitan, CF Brunswick came out to play pushing the sky blues all the way in an entertaining clash. 4 goals to Dino Redzepovic was the difference in the end with the sky blues lifting every time CFB came at them. 7 – 5 in the end with CFB being the biggest improvers of the month. Metro keep the pressure on PVFC.

**Ashburton 4
Nth Melbourne FC 8**

UPDATE: Ashburton FC where out played and out muscled by a silky Nth Melbourne FC in a quick pace futsal clash. Ashburton FC is out of form and it seems North just got back in form with 3 goals to Polatti and 2 to Cooper. A solid performance by Waterfield and Barrientos in the back was all NMFC needed to get their campaign back on track. 8 – 4 in the end with Ashburton FC looking likely to slip out of the top 4.

PVFC: THE INVINCIBLES



Marcos Barbosa



Greg Lascaris



Richard Ferguson



Joao Da Silva



Ahmend Azzam



Andre Caro

**Fitzroy FC 3
FC Essendon 2**

UPDATE: The Champions Fitzroy FC with big Dianoosh in goals battled to the end in a physical clash that saw FC Essendon pepper the FCC goal with no reward as both teams gave it all. A thunder bolt from Rashidi saw FCC take control as FCE came home strong but the Champs hung on for a memorable 3 points 3 – 2 in the end

**Brimbank FC 5
Mickleham FC 7**

UPDATE: After 2 disappointing losses for both teams Mickleham FC and Brimbank FC put on a mighty show for the crowd in a goal for goal feast. It was Mickleham FC who kept their noses in front and Brimbank did all the chasing. With three minutes remaining D.Bosniak put the game out of BFC's reach with a cleaver move and finish. Mickleham looked sharp tonight with new young guns, J.Berrios and C. Yang fitting in nicely. BFC played like their lives depended on a result but fell short. 7 – 5 in the end

**Pascoe Vale FC 8
FC Prahran 2**

UPDATE: Q. Who is going to pinch points of Pascoe Vale FC? With 16 from 16 wins and a 100% record, this black and white machine doesn't look like slowing down, disposing of FC Prahran relatively easily.PVFC are a shoe in for the premiership. With all records broken it's hard to imagine a melt down with 6 games remaining. Could NMFC who they play twice do the job? Or could Metropolitan do it? Who will stop their 100% record? Whatever the case, stay tuned as the premiership is hotting up. Good win in the end.

V-League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Pascoe Vale FC	16	16	0	0	141	49	92	48
2 Metropolitan FC	17	12	1	4	139	75	64	37
3 Nth Melbourne FC	16	12	0	4	90	58	32	36
4 Ashburton FC	17	10	2	5	102	90	12	32
5 Hume FC	17	9	2	6	94	75	19	29
6 Fitzroy FC	17	7	2	8	75	98	-23	23
7 FC Essendon	17	6	3	8	91	105	-14	21
8 FC Prahran	17	6	0	11	76	109	-33	18
9 Mickleham FC	17	5	2	10	100	104	-4	17
10 CF Brunswick	17	5	1	11	76	108	-32	16
11 Brimbank FC	17	4	0	13	61	101	-40	12
12 FC Collingwood	17	2	1	13	51	124	-62	7

Round 17 Results Wed March 2nd

•6:30 FC Collingwood v Hume FC	3 - 14
•7:15 CF Brunswick v Metropolitan FC	5 - 7
•8:00 Ashburton FC v Nth Melbourne FC	4 - 8
•8:45 FC Essendon v Fitzroy FC	2 - 3
•9:30 Brimbank FC v Mickleham FC	5 - 7
•10:15 Pascoe Vale FC v FC Prahran	8 - 2

Round 18 Clashes Wed March 9th

•6:30 CF Brunswick v Nth Melbourne FC	
•7:15 FC Prahran v Hume FC	
•8:00 Brimbank FC v Ashburton FC	
•8:45 Pascoe Vale FC v Fitzroy FC	
•9:30 FC Essendon v Metropolitan FC	
•10:15 FC Collingwood v Mickleham FC	

State League Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 FC Melbourne	15	13	0	2	76	42	34	39
2 FC Balwyn	14	9	2	3	104	64	40	29
3 FC Footscray	15	9	1	5	91	64	27	28
4 Elsternwick FC	14	9	1	4	84	62	22	28
5 FC Carlton	15	6	1	8	84	84	0	19
6 Albert Park FC	15	6	1	8	82	92	-10	19
7 Melb Uni FC	15	6	1	9	64	91	-27	18
8 FC Geelong	15	5	0	10	61	71	-27	18
9 Bentleigh FC	15	4	0	11	73	114	-41	12
10 Doncaster FC	13	3	0	10	64	99	-35	9

State League Championship Season Round 15 Sun Feb 27th

•7:40 Bentleigh FC v Albert Park FC	2 - 4
•8:20 Elsternwick FC v FC Melbourne	4 - 6
•9:00 FC Carlton v FC Geelong	5 - 4
•9:40 Doncaster FC v FC Balwyn	7 - 9
•10:20 Melb Uni FC v FC Footscray	3 - 4

State League Championship Season Round 16 Sun March 6th

•7:40 FC Carlton v FC Balwyn	
•8:20 Doncaster FC v Bentleigh FC	
•9:00 Elsternwick FC v Albert Park FC	
•9:40 FC Footscray v FC Melbourne	
•10:20 Melb Uni FC v FC Geelong	

State League Top Scorers

1.Rob Zadworny FCB	41 goals
2.Peter Kratkt EFC	35 goals
3.Matt Italiano FCB	27 goals

Photos By
THEO SOUFIS & JAMES SOUFIS

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FUTSAL OZ TV



ST ALBANS SAINTS



0

NORTHCOTE CITY



1

Match Details

ST ALBANS SAINTS LINE-UP

20. Ante LONCARIC, 4. Maks CUZE (c), 5. Brian CHESSON, 7. Goran JOZELJIC, 8. Liam CANNELL, 9. Josip LONCARIC, 16. Tomislav USKOK (6. Alan PALEKA 71'), 17. Daniel VISEVIC, 18. Stefan PIORKOWSKI (19. Micahel GRGIC '90), 21. Martin HANA (14. Mark PALEKA 71'), 23. Tomislav MILARDOVIC

Unused Substitutes: 1. Franjo SARIC, 13. Dario LASIC.

NORTHCOTE CITY LINE-UP

22. Chris PETROPOULOS, 16. Paul SAVIO, 3. Kristian KONSTADINIDIS, 3. Antoni JANKOVSKI, 13. Samuel TORRENS, 11. Harry KINIGOPOULOS, 23. Jason TRIFILO, 10. Glen TRIFILO, 14. Eduardo SOARES (15. George McHEILEH 75'), 8. Nicholas CURTIS, 9. Trent RIXON.

Goals: T Rixon 76' (pen.)

Venue: Churchill Reserve
Crowd: 700
Man of the Match: Tomislav Uskok

Saints pay the penalty as Northcote take the points

By Mark Ivkovic

THE St Albans Saints have suffered their first defeat at home in over 2 years after going down to a controversial 1-0 defeat at the hands of Northcote City on Sunday afternoon.

Kruni Razov was forced into making one change to his squad after Tomi Razvo's dismal last weekend which saw Goran Jozeljic make his first start of the season in a three pronged attack for the home team.

The game got off to a cagey start as Northcote set up very defensively knowing they were in for a tough time against a desperate St. Albans side in front of a very vocal and large home crowd.

It was Northcote with the first real chance of the game after Glen Trifiro managed to make his way past 3 Saints defenders on the edge of the area but his wayward effort only found the side netting.

Northcote were struggling to create anything going forward as young Saints defender Tomislav Uskok did a superb job on Trent Rixon all afternoon as he kept the visiting side's main vocal point very quiet.

Eduardo Soares nearly handed his side the lead against the run of play in the 40th minute when the St. Albans defence failed to deal with a corner, Soares' well struck effort outside the area made it's way through a sea of players before Loncaric made an unorthodox save onto the cross bar to prevent the visitors from taking the lead.

The Saints spurned a golden chance just before the break as Northcote keeper, Chris Petropoulos came outside his area to clear a loose ball but his miss-kick saw Martin Hana steal the

ball off him but Kristian Konstadinidis was there to put in a desperate last ditch tackle to keep the scores level going into the break.

The second half began much like the first in a very timid and cagey fashion. It was a brutal midfield battle between the two sides with aggressive tackles being laid on countless occasions.

The game changed in the 72nd minute when young Saints defender and man of the match, Tomislav Uskok succumbed to injury and had to leave the field of play.

Having been kept quiet all afternoon by Uskok, Trent Rixon finally broke free of the shackles placed on him by the Saints defence who were expertly lead by the very impressive Tomislav Milarovic.

As Rixon found some space, Uskok's replacement, Alan Paleka brought down last year's golden boot winner with a clumsy challenge inside the area to give away the Saints third penalty in as many games.

Ante Loncaric then pulled off a great penalty save from Rixon but the assistant referee had raised his flag very early to signal a re-take as Loncaric had stepped several meters off his line.

Up stepped Rixon again and this time he made no mistake and gave his side an undeserved 1-0 lead after 76 minutes.

The Saints tried to push forward for a late equaliser but for the third week in a row they found it difficult to find that penetrating pass to open up the defence.

A dejected St. Albans team need to re-group quickly as they now face their local rivals, Green Gully in the Brimbank derby this Saturday at Green Gully Reserve. Kick-off is at 3.00pm.



Saints keeper Ante Loncaric saves from Trent Rixon's first penalty attempt before conceding the winning goal from the second effort. Photo: STEVE STAREK



Saints Maks Cuze narrows in on Northcote's Jason Trifiolo. Photo: STEVE STAREK



Northcote's Trent Rixon takes on Tomislav Uskok (left) and Maks Cruze Photo: STEVE STAREK



Trent Rixon gets sandwiched between Tomislav Uskok and Liam Cannell. Photo: STEVE STAREK

SOUTH MELBOURNE	
	2
BENTLEIGH GREENS	
	1

Match Details

South Melbourne
1. Stefaan SARDELLIC; 3. Rhodri PAYNE; 4. Steven O'DOR; 6. Steven TOPALOVIC; 8. Carl RECCHIA; 10. Kliment TASESKI (sent off 57'); 11. Jesse KRNCJEVIC; 15. Fernando DE MORAES; 18. Marinos GASPARI; 23. Sebastian PETROVIC; 25. Kyle JORYEFF
Subs: 5. Daniel VASILEVSKI; 9. Gianni DE NITTIS; 14. Kamal IBRAHIM; 21. Zaim ZENELLI; 30. Jake VANDERMEY
Goals: Sebastian Petrovic (2')
Kyle Joryeff (39')

Bentleigh Greens
1. Kile KENNEDY; 3. Thomas
MATHEWS; 5. Steve LAURIE; 6.
Stephen DOWNES; 8. Wayne WAL-
LACE; 9. Sean McLLROY; 10. Hayden
DOYLE; 11. Scott BULLOCK; 14. Aron
WILFORD; 16. Ryan DAVIDSON; 17.
Jack WEBSTER
Subs: 4. Craig SMART; 7. James
McGARRY; 12. Adam FADLJEVIC; 25.
Declanm KEOGH; 31. Luke GAVALAS
Goals: Sean McIlroy (30')

Man of the Match: Carl Recchia (South Melbourne)

Venue: John Cain Memorial Park

10-Man South Ground Greens

By John Kyrrou

SOUTH Melbourne Hellas has won its second match of the 2011 Victorian Premier League season after defeating leaders Bentleigh Greens 2-1 at John Cain Memorial Park on Sunday afternoon.

The win was thoroughly deserved as South was clearly the better team on the day, even with one less man on the field for most of the second half following the dismissal of Kliment Taseski.

On what was an extremely warm afternoon at John Cain Memorial Park, South opened the scoring after just two minutes of play. Jesse Krncevic's deflected shot went wide for a corner that Taseski took and sent a wonderful outswinging corner to the penalty spot that Sebastian Petrovic got his head to and flicked the ball into the far corner of the net.

South continued to enjoy large amounts of possession but was unable to find another avenue through to goal in order to double its slender lead. On the half-hour mark, they were made to pay by Bentleigh, after a set piece from the right flank following a dubious free kick was headed home by Sean McIlroy.

The home side did not have to wait long to regain the lead though, following a wild goal by Kyle Joryeff shortly before



Sebastian Petrovic rises high to head home South Melbourne's first goal Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

halftime. A switch from the right side was well trapped by Joryeff before he fired a shot across his body that went into the goal after bouncing off the far post. It was nothing less than South deserved and ultimately proved to be the winning goal for the afternoon.

In the second half, South were dealt a severe blow when

Taseski was controversially shown a straight red card following a late challenge. This meant the home side needed to battle the rest of the match with only ten men, which the team did admirably. Stefaan Sardelic was called upon to make a few interventions but apart from this Bentleigh hardly created many clear-cut chances to

level. At the other end, South wasted several opportunities to score a third and end the match as a contest but was unable to do so. In the end, the home side did enough to earn a vital three points ahead of the derby against Heidelberg United next weekend.

South travels to Olympic Village next Sunday knowing it

will take a huge effort to get at least a point from a venue that it has not won anything from since the opening round of the 2006 Victorian Premier League season. The match kicks off at 18:00.


Bentleigh hosts the Oakleigh Cannons next Friday evening, with kick-off at 20:15 at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex.



Sebastian Petrovic shares the joy with Kliment Taseski who took the corner that Seb headed in for South's first goal. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Kliment Taseski forces the best out of Bentleigh Greens keeper, Kile Kennedy. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

<h1>HUME CITY</h1>		<h1>2</h1>
<h1>HEIDELBERG UNITED</h1>		<h1>1</h1>

Match Details

Hume City: 1. Lupce ACEVSKI, 3. Fabio DELIZIA, 5. Steven PACE, 7. Isiyen ERDOGAN 4. Mark PISTINIZI 82"), 10. Richard CARDOZO, 12. Ross THOMPSON, 16. Tansel BASER (20. Michael BOSEVSKI 54"), 17. Mark MCGOUGH (15. Zoran PETREVSKI 46"), 19. Slave BOZINOVSKI, 21. Dusko DELIC, 23. Steven WEIR.

Subs not used: 18. Kenny
GEROHRISTODOULOU (GK), 2.
Adam NAKIC
Goals: Weir 72', Petrevski 77'
Yellow Cards: Bozinovski 59'

Heidelberg United: 1. Griffin Mc-MASTER, 2. Yared HAILEMELKOT, 7. Hamlet ARMENIAN, 8. Andrew NABBOUT (23. Takanori NISHIMO-TO 74'), 11. Evan CHRISTODOU-LOU (5. George PAPADOPOLOUS 69'), 16. Steve MARTIN, 14. Craig ELVIN, 18. Osagie EDERARO, 20. Saso ALEKSOVSKI (9. George SLEFENDORFAS 65'), 21. Rich-ard GREER, 22. Ben Waring.
Subs not used: 3. Les DOUMBALIS, 30. Jason KOUTSODONTIS (GK)

Goal: Aleksovski 17'
Yellow Cards: Hailemelkot 77'
Player of the Match: Zoran Petrovski (Hume City)
Crowd: approx 400 at John Ilhan Memorial Reserve

Hume opens season account edging out Bergers

Hume City has won its first match of the 2011 Alanic VPL campaign, overcoming a one goal deficit to defeat Heidelberg United 2-1 on Sunday afternoon at John Ilhan Memorial Reserve.

In a game played in very warm conditions on a hard surface, the introduction of Zoran Petrevski by Hume immediately after the main interval proved to be decisive in the outcome. The veteran striker set up the equaliser for teammate Steven Weir, and later on stabbed home the winner for Hume. This was after Heidelberg had taken a first half lead through a Saso Aleksovski goal.

Hume City was without its player-coach Andy Vlahos through suspension, whereas Heidelberg welcomed back defender Steve Martin, although still without playmaker Adrian Caceres through a leg injury. New recruit Ben Waring made his debut for the visitors.

It was the visitors who threatened early with Aleksovski shooting narrowly wide following a swiftly taken free kick. For Hume, Mark McGough forced Heidelberg's Griffin McMaster into a fine save with a well struck shot.

Heidelberg took the lead on 17 minutes after Hume skipper Lupce Acevski could only parry a low shot by Andrew Nabbout, who had been picked out unmarked at the edge of

the box by his teammate Yared Hailemektot. Saso Aleksovski was on hand to easily tap in the loose ball to give Heidelberg the lead.

Hume almost hit back immediately with McGough forcing McMaster into another save. However, with Armenian twice breaching the Hume defence on the counter, Ederaro on each occasion spurned great chances to double Heidelberg's advantage, firstly with a low header well saved by Acevski, then when he blasted over from close range.

With his side a goal down, Hume coach Andy Vlahos brought on Petrevski for McGough at half time, and the move looked to work wonders immediately. Petrevski's run & physical presence put the Heidelberg defence under more pressure, and McMaster was forced into fine saves from Petrevski & then Weir in succession as Hume sought the equaliser.

On the counter, Heidelberg itself appeared to threaten on a few occasions, with Armenian & Nabbout causing the Hume defence, particularly Bozinovski concerns. Baser went off for Hume with what appeared to be a knee injury midway through the second half.

With just 20 minutes to play, Ederaro missed a golden opportunity to give Heidelberg a 2-0 lead when he sprayed his shot wide at the near post with only Acevski to beat. The

visitors would rue the miss, when just two minutes later, Petrevski was played clear on the right, sending in a well hit hit low cross that was powered home by Steven Weir to level the scores.

With Hume now gradually getting on top, the winner came in somewhat controversial circumstances. Following a Hume corner, the ball was played back into the box and fell to Petrevski, who appeared to be running back from an apparent offside position. However, with no flag from the assistant forthcoming, an unmarked Petrevski swivelled and fired home to give Hume a 2-1 lead.

The clearly disgruntled Heidelberg camp protested in vain, with Hailemelkot cautioned & coach George Katsakis ordered from the bench for dissent towards the assistant. With the visitors pressing for an equaliser, Hume might have made it 3-1 in injury time following a solo run by Cardozo resulted in his shot narrowly missing.

In Round 4 action next week, Hume City travels to league leaders Dandenong Thunder next Saturday evening, whereas on Sunday evening, Heidelberg United will look to bounce back as it hosts arch-rival South Melbourne in the traditional derby fixture at the Olympic Village.

In the Under-21's match this afternoon, Heidelberg United defeated Hume City 1-0.



Heidelberg United's Saso Alexovski scores, much to the approval of team-mate Yared Hailemeleket, but Hume City rallied back to grab the three points

PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



Hume City's Steven Pace uses his body to shield the ball away from Heidelberg United's Osagie Ederaro. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



Hume City's Ross Thompson displays an exertion of power to win the battle and the header in midfield. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

Thunder Ruffle Eagles Feathers

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

2



GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

1



Match Details

MATCH STATS:
SHOTS: MK 9 GG 6
TARGET: MK 5 GG 3
CORNERS: MK 0 GG 6

Melbourne Knights Line Up: M. John, S. Romein (C. Sweeney 80'), R. Filipovic, B. Surey, L. Shin, J. Kozic (J. Magdic 82'), A. Colosimo, J. Dubios (J. Colosimo 87'), D. Dragicevic, M. Welmant, De Camago Junior.

Not Used: A. Romein, J. Franjic

Yellow Cards: B. Surey 33', J. Dubios 37', J. Kozic 52', S. Romein 72'.

Goals: J. Dubios 2', D. Dragicevic 48'.

Green Gully Line Up: N. Roganovic, D. Jones, C. Drake, J. Fleming, J. Hayne (M. Anderson 83'), G. Hockless, M. Sanders (H. Basma 75'), R. Ollerton, M. Medjedovic, A. Vargas, J. Munoz (P. Vizzari 66')

Not Used: M. Interlandi, J. Pugh.

Yellow Cards: C. Drake 63'

Goals: M. Medjedovic 36'

MoM. D. Dragicevic (MK)

Crowd: Approx 1000 @ Knights Stadium.

KNIGHTS SHINE UNDER LIGHTS

By Andrew Fisher

ON a freezing Friday night the Melbourne Knights played host to Green Gully, a side who they have failed to beat since the 2007 season.

The defending Champions under new head coach Lubo Lapsansky have experienced a mixed start to this campaign notching up just a single point in the opening two fixtures, whilst the Knights had the same record there were encouraging signs after a solid display the previous week away to Northcote.

From the first whistle the hosts immediately took the game to the Cavaliers, and could have taken the lead with the first possession of the game, Dragicevic and Dubios combined to set up Welmant who shot wide of the target from the edge of the area, but the Knights didn't have to wait long as their early spell of dominance was rewarded with a goal barely 90 seconds into the contest. Josip Kozic released Dragicevic down the right wing, the former North Geelong star beat two defenders before squaring to Jean Dubios to open the scoring with a good strike into the bottom corner.

The Knights could have easily killed of the contest within the opening ten minutes, as the shell shocked Green Gully outfit had no answer to the spell of attacking dominance, in particular from Daniel Dragicevic who spurned two one on one chances with the goalkeeper. New French import Matheiu-Luc Welmant was also causing the Cavaliers plenty of problems from the opposite wing, as the winger also wasted another glaring chance for the hosts to extend their lead.

Lucky not to be at least three goals down, the reigning champions finally found their feet in the contest, Graham Hockless showed his class playing a delightful on-two with Ryan Ollerton to set up Mathew Sanders with a strike into the side netting from inside the 18 yard box.

Green Gully then punished the hosts for their early wastefulness by finding an equaliser in the 36th minute, with Graham Hockless the focal point of all their attacking moves, it was

little surprise who was the architect of the goal. From a seemingly non-threatening position the midfielder combined with Andy Vargas to beat two defenders and work his way into the box, with time and space Hockless easily picked out Mile Medjedovic at the back post who made no mistake from two yards out.

Remarkably the visitors had a chance to enter the break with the lead, when Mathew Sanders was put through on goal in the final minute of the half, however De Camago Junior recovered in time to clear the danger for the hosts.

The Second half began in similar fashion to first, Green Gully failed to learn their lesson as early pressure from the Knights was again rewarded with a goal. Shaun Romein cut in from the right wing and fed Dragicevic on the edge of the area, the winger still had plenty to do, but coolly beat his marker and finish with a sublime strike past Roganovic sending the home fans into raptures.

From a dangerous free-kick position, Graham Hockless tested Martin John who was equal to the test, as the visitors again were left chasing the game. Coach Lubo Lapsansky introduced Pasquale Vizzari and Hasmid Basma midway through the half, but it was Mathew Sanders who had the best chance for an equalizer in the 61st minute. A Hockless corner was headed back across goal from Drake finding Sanders unmarked, however from an acute angle the striker only managed to lift his shot harmlessly over the bar.

With time running out substitute Michael Anderson was thrown on, and could have made an immediate impact had his turn and shot been on target. With a lengthy injury treatment to De Camago Junoir, there was still 8 minutes of stoppage time for the hosts to endure. The Cavaliers pilled on the pressure with strikes on goal from outside the box, but on each occasion the desperate home defence were able to block the shots out.

Melbourne Knights were able to hold on and record their first win of the season, and at the



Martin John pulls no punches as he clears the danger. Photos: STEVE STAREK



Jean Dubois' second minute opener gives the Knights a storming start Photo: STEVE STAREK

same time resigning the reigning premiers to a winless start from three games. Next week the Cavaliers host a local derby against

St Albans Saints with less than 3km's separating the clubs, whilst the Knights face a different type of 'local' derby when

they make the trip to Springvale to take on the Serbian backed White Eagles.



Martin John receives the his award for 100 games from Knights president Ange Cimera. Photo: STEVE STAREK



Daniel Dragicevic scores the second for the Knights. ... Photo: STEVE STAREK



...And is promptly swamped by his team-mates. Photo: STEVE STAREK

OAKLEIGH CANNONS



2

SPRINGVALE W EAGLES



2

Match Details

Oakleigh Cannons: Peter ZOIS (C, GK), Ramazan TAVSANCIOGLU, James CUMMING, Anthony BRAN, Aristidis DRAKOS, Luke WALKER (Dane MILOVANOVIC 85'), James DOWNEY, Frankie LAGANA, James ROBINSON, Stephen HATZIKOSTAS (Billy DAMIANOS 70'), Bonel OBRADOVIC (Ricky DIACO 70')

Unused Subs: Daniel NEESHAM, Craig GOODWIN

Goals: Lagana 20', 75'.

Yellow Card: Zois 85'

Springvale White Eagles: Scott AGUSTIN (GK), Boris BAJIC, Dominic D'ANGELO, Adam EWIN, Milos LUJIC, Gordan MRDIC (Lewis KARANICOLAS 22'), Du-shan NIKOLIC (Dejan RADOJICIC 77'), Tome RACUNICA (C) (Rados TOMIC 79'), Nikola VELJOVIC, Zoran VUKAS, Goran ZORIC.

Unused Subs: Christian MO-RALES, Paul MAGHIAR

Goals: Lujic 47', Vukas 83'.

Yellow Card: Veljovic 75'

Weagles snatch point from Cannons

By Rory Flanagan

OAKLEIGH Cannons have been held to a 2-2 draw by Springvale White Eagles at Jack Edwards Reserve on Friday night thanks to a late Zoran Vukas stunner.

Unperturbed by the chilly conditions, a solid crowd witnessed two contrasting halves but would agree that the home should have taken all three points.

Building on a strong showing last week, Oakleigh were on the front foot early. James Robinson's neat touches to his midfielders have been a feature of the Cannon's play early this season and he teed up Stephen Hatzikostas with a back heel, but the subsequent shot was hit straight at Augustin who held well.

Hatzikostas was again threatening and after dancing his way into the box from the right flank, he smashed a drive against the base of the post

Rama Tavsancioglu delivered a dangerous cross from the right, forcing Adam Ewin to head over his own bar and from the resulting corner, Brian Bran rose highest to meet the ball but couldn't connect properly and his header skimmed off target.

Oakleigh's early dominance paid off with 20 minutes played. Springvale failed to clear their lines properly and the ball fell to Frankie Lagana. The central mid-fielder pushed the ball to his right before unleashing an effort that dipped ridiculously, before dropping over Scott Augustin and into the back of the net.

Last week's man of the match against Green Gully, Bran manoeuvred his way into a good position for a header at goal but again missed the target as it brushed off his forehead.

Bran eventually did head the ball into the back of the net at the third time of asking -albeit via a deflection- but as cheers began to erupt, the goal was ruled out and a free kick awarded to the visitors.

Springvale could not find a way past the rock solid Oakleigh back-line and when a half chance finally came their way, it was sent into orbit by Dominic D'Angelo from the edge of the area, incurring Bronx cheers from the gathering Cannons contingent behind the goals.



Above: Oakleigh's Frankie Lagana grabs the first of his brace and celebrates Canto-na-style.



Right: The moment Zoran Vukas scored late in the game to earn Springvale its first point of the season.

PHOTOS: ANITA MILAS

Already marshalling his back-line to brilliant effect, 'keeper and captain Peter Zois had no problems claiming high balls the came his way as Oakleigh went into the half time break looking impregnable.

Whatever ever was said to the White Eagles players at half time worked, as they came charging out of the blocks and equalised barely two minutes after the restart. Tome Racunica sent in a ground cross from the right to first half substitute Lewis Karanicolas who then played the ball towards goal where Milos Lujic was on hand to bundle the ball over. Rama Tavsancioglu may have got the final touch, resulting in an own goal but nonetheless the visitors were back on level terms. Edging their way back on top of the contest, Oakleigh came close again through Bran. He could have

had a hat trick on another night, but again he missed his header from a right wing ball.

The match was becoming end to end. As Robinson bore down on goal, he was cut down and from the following free kick Lagana got the ball up and over the wall but off target to the right.

On as a substitute for Bonel Obradovic, popular striker Ricky Diaco flicked a sumptuous back heel into the path of Robinson but Ewin was on hand to save the day with magnificent last-ditch intervention. Frankie Lagana was on set piece duty again and from the left flank he delivered a wicked, curling cross that caught everyone in two minds and bounced straight in at the far post. Using his strength to manufacture opportunities, Diaco held off his man and tried his luck from a dif-

ficult angle but former Oakleigh keeper Scott Augustin was able hold the shot with relative ease. Livewire winger Jimmy Downey is always a threat and after latching onto a through ball he hammered a half volley at goal which fizzed over the angle of post and cross-bar.

With ten minutes left, Rama Tavsancioglu collected the ball at right back and set off on a barnstorming run past several players before it was brought to an abrupt halt by Nikola Veljovic's crude chop. Robinson dispatched the set piece but the wall did its job and deflected the ball over.

White Eagles sent bodies forward for an 83rd minute corner with Zoran Vukas left alone outside the area. When the ball was played to him, he opted for precision instead of power and curled a wonderful

effort inside the right hand upright. Peter Zois was left stranded as there were 16 players inside his area obscuring his view of the ball and could do nothing at all to stop the equaliser.

Goran Zoric had the opportunity to steal all three points for the away side when he found himself alone inside the area preparing to add the finishing touch to a counterattack but dreadfully fluffed his lines and completely miskicked, allowing Zois to pounce.

Springvale had the momentum in the last few minutes but couldn't make it count but will still be pleased to come away with a point after three consecutive heavy losses to start their season.

Oakleigh remain unbeaten and play their fourth home game of the season out of four on Monday night against VTC.



Frankie Lagana bags his second and Cannons' coach Arthur Papas is all smiles



Alanic VPL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Dandenong Thunder	3	3	0	0	9	2	7	9
2 Bentleigh Greens	4	2	1	1	6	3	3	7
3 South Melbourne	4	2	1	1	11	9	2	7
4 Oakleigh Cannons	3	2	1	0	6	4	2	7
5 VTC Football	3	2	0	1	7	4	3	6
6 Hume City	3	1	2	0	5	4	1	5
7 Northcote City	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
8 Melbourne Knights	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
9 Heidelberg Utd	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
10 Green Gully Cavaliers	3	0	1	2	2	4	-2	1
11 St Albans Saints	3	0	1	2	3	7	-4	1
12 Richmond	3	0	1	2	2	6	-4	1
13Springvale White Eagles	4	0	1	3	7	15	-8	1

Alanic VPL Round 4

Mon 7 Mar 8:30PM Oakleigh Cannons v N.T.C Jack Edwards Reserve	Sat 12 Mar 7:00PM Dandenong Thunder v Hume City George Andrews Reserve
Fri 11 Mar 8:15PM Bentleigh Greens v Oakleigh Cannons Kingston Heath	Sun 13 Mar 3:00PM Springvale White Eagles v Melb Knights White Eagles Stadium
Sat 12 Mar 3:00PM Green Gully Cavaliers v St Albans Saints Green Gully Reserve	Sun 13 Mar 6:00PM Heidelberg Utd v South Melbourne Olympic Park (Village)
Sat 12 Mar 5:00PM Northcote City v Richmond Eagles John Cain Memorial	

Under 21s

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pt
1 South Melbourne	4	3	1	0	13	6	7	11
2 Dandenong Thunder	3	3	0	0	12	3	9	9
3 Oakleigh Cannons	3	2	1	0	9	3	6	7
4 Heidelberg Utd	3	2	1	0	6	2	4	7
5 Hume City	3	1	1	1	6	3	3	4
6 Northcote City	3	1	1	1	4	5	-1	4
7 St Albans Saints	3	1	1	1	6	8	-2	4
8 Bentleigh Greens	4	1	1	2	5	8	-3	4
9 Springvale WE	4	1	0	3	12	13	-1	3
10 VTC Football	3	1	0	2	3	9	-6	3
11 Green Gully	3	0	2	1	2	5	-3	2
12 Melbourne Knights	3	0	1	2	0	2	-2	1
13 Richmond	3	0	0	3	3	14	-11	0

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